2013 DRAFT ANALYSIS & IN-DEPTH TEAM PREVIEWS

ATHLON SPORTS

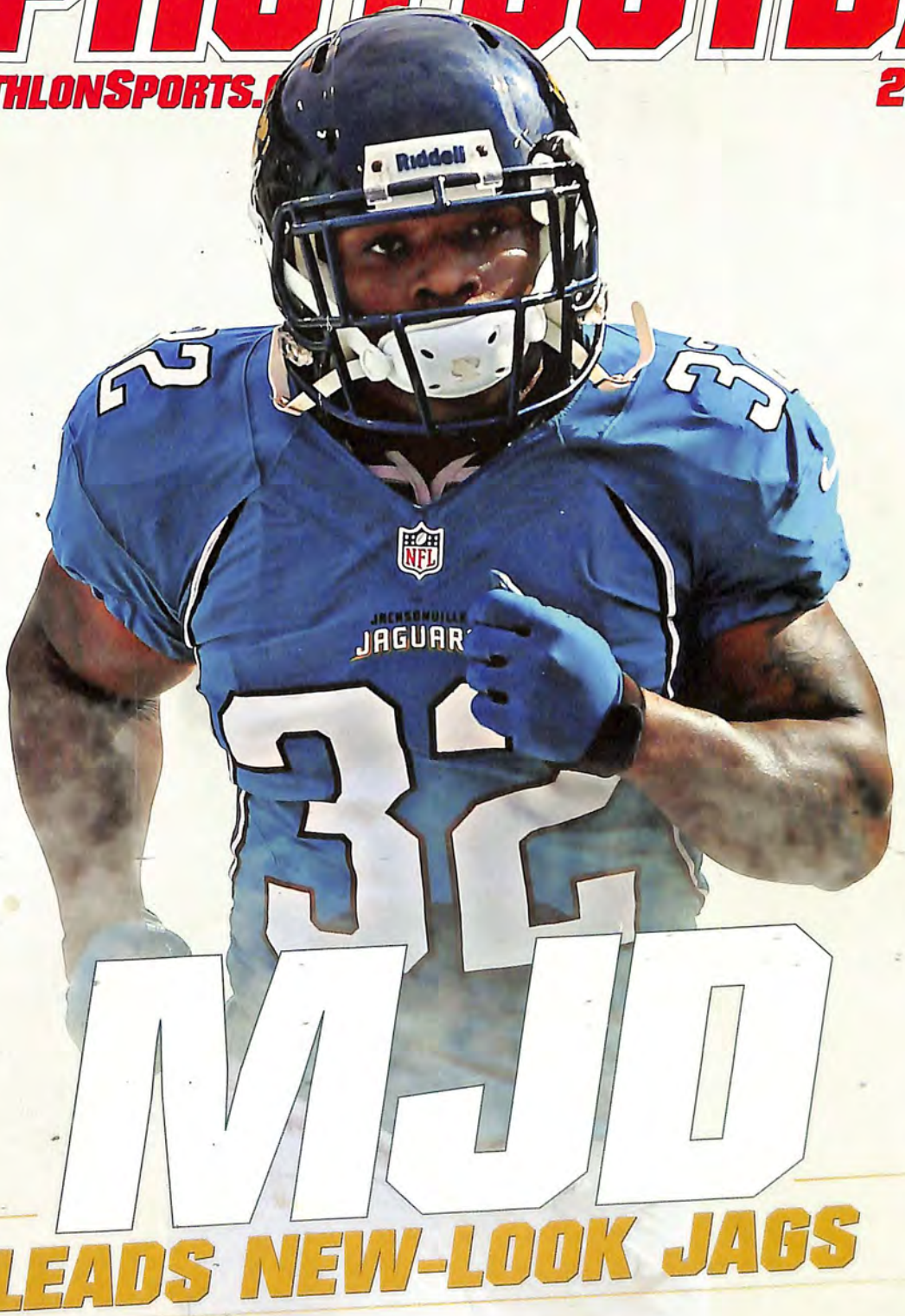
AMERICA'S PREMIER SPORTS PUBLISHER

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE COWBOYS?

PRO FOOTBALL

ATHLONSPORTS.

2013 PREVIEW



MJD

LEADS NEW-LOOK JAGS

INSIDE

A.D.: QUEST FOR 2,500

COLLEGE SPREAD TURNS PRO

12 THINGS TO WATCH

2003 DRAFT REVISITED

DISPLAY UNTIL SEPTEMBER 16, 2013

31 >

$7.99

7 25274 11350 7

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

ATHLON SPORTS PRO FOOTBALL

VOL 32/2013 69

GMC
WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE
INTRODUCING THE MOST
FUEL-EFFICIENT V-8 ENGINE
IN A FULL-SIZE PICKUP.*
THE ALL-NEW 2014 GMC SIERRA INTRODUCES A NEW STANDARD OF PROFESSIONAL GRADE. THANKS TO THE INGENUITY OF DIRECT INJECTION, VARIABLE VALVE TIMING AND ACTIVE FUEL MANAGEMENT, OUR NEW AVAILABLE ECOTEC3 5.3L V-8 OFFERS 23 MPG HWY—THE BEST FUEL ECONOMY OF ANY V-8 PICKUP.* WITH 355 HORSEPOWER, IT'S TRUE V-8 TRUCK PERFORMANCE. AND ITS NEW EXCLUSIVE DURALIFE BRAKE ROTORS CAN HELP DOUBLE ROTOR LIFE EXPECTANCY, SO YOU CAN GET FULL-SIZE STOPPING POWER ENGINEERED TO ENDURE.
NFL
GMC. THE OFFICIAL VEHICLE OF THE NFL.
*EPA-estimated mpg for 5.3L EcoTec3 V-8 engine: 16 city/23 hwy 2WD, 16 city/22 hwy 4WD.
©2013 General Motors. All rights reserved. Duralife™ GMC® Sierra® WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE®

GMC

RARE AIR

Calvin Johnson took flight in 2012, breaking Jerry Rice's single-season record for receiving yardage with 1,964.

AP Photo/Philadelphia Daily News, David Maialetti

SNICKERS IS A PROUD SPONSOR OF THE NFL

☆ THE HUNGRY FAN'S GUIDE TO FOOTBALL ☆

DEFENSIVE LINEMAN

NOUN [DIH-FEN-SIV LAHYN-MUHN]

A LINEMAN WHO TAKES STUFF TOO PERSONALLY.

YOU'RE NOT YOU WHEN YOU'RE HUNGRY.™

SNICKERS

SATISFIES

facebook.com/snickers

®/™ trademarks © Mars, Incorporated 2013

EDITOR'S LETTER

My first recollection of Colin Kaepernick was early in the 2007 college football season. A redshirt freshman at the time, Kaepernick — in only his second career start — threw for 243 yards and three touchdowns and rushed for 177 and two scores in Nevada's 69–67 loss in four overtimes to then-WAC rival Boise State. That was just the beginning of a stellar four-year career in which the dual-threat quarterback threw for 10,098 yards and rushed for 4,112 with a combined 142 touchdowns. Not bad for a guy who didn't have any other Division I football scholarship offers coming out of high school in Northern California.

That wouldn't be the last time people doubted Kaepernick's ability to play at the next level. Despite posting those gaudy numbers at Nevada — and despite an official measurement of 6'5" and 233 pounds at the NFL Combine — Kaepernick was not selected until early in the second round of the 2011 draft. Five quarterbacks, including Jake Locker and Blaine Gabbert, were picked ahead of him.

Fast forward two years, and Kaepernick is the starting quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers, the preseason favorites to win Super Bowl XLVIII. Kaepernick emerged late last season as one of the most exciting players in the league. The shining moment of his second season in the NFL came in his first postseason game, when he threw for 263 yards and two touchdowns and rushed for 181 yards — the most by a quarterback in an NFL game — and two more scores in the 49ers' surprisingly easy 45–31 win over Green Bay.

Much of Kaepernick's damage was done on a relatively simple play that dozens of college teams run with regularity, the zone-read. When run correctly — and run with a true dual-threat quarterback — it's a play that can be very difficult to stop. And it's a play we will see quite a bit more in the NFL in 2013.

Obviously, not every team in the league will incorporate the zone-read into its offense. Don't expect Tom Brady or either of the Manning brothers to tuck it and run five to 10 times per game. But there are enough quarterbacks with enough mobility to make this an effective part of many teams' attack.

In "Spreading the Wealth" on page 20, Athlon Sports contributing writer Michael Bradley talks with some NFL personnel to ascertain just how big of an impact this one play will have on the game.

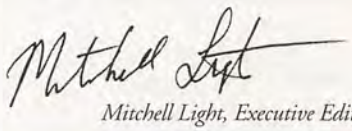
Meanwhile, Adrian Peterson doesn't need any deception to matriculate the ball down the field. Dating back to his banner career at Oklahoma, Peterson has been wildly effective running the ball out of conventional offensive sets. Last year, coming off of a devastating knee injury, Peterson came nine yards shy of setting the NFL single-season rushing record. This year, Peterson's goal is simple: Break the 2,500-yard barrier. In "Adrian Peterson: Quest for 2,500" on page 16, Vikings' beat writer Dan Wiederer of the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* talks with Peterson and some of his teammates to determine if this lofty goal is realistic.

Fans of the Dallas Cowboys are asking if it's realistic to expect their team to win a big game. In each of the last two years, the Cowboys have failed to make the playoffs due to a loss in Week 17. Despite these setbacks, the same cast of characters is back for another go-round in Dallas. On page 14, Charean Williams of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* takes a look at the issues facing the 2013 Cowboys in "Playoffs or Bust in Big D."

In addition to these features, we take a look back at the 2003 NFL Draft — remember Charles Rogers? — and offer our thoughts on the recently completed '13 draft. Also, you will find our predictions for the upcoming season as well as Bruce Herman's irreverent look back at the 2012 season in "Extra Points."

We'd love to hear your thoughts on the magazine — good or bad. Send us a note on Twitter (@AthlonSports) or email us at editor@athlonsports.com.

Enjoy the season.



Mitchell Light, Executive Editor

Follow us on facebook
www.facebook.com/AthlonSports

For coverage of all things football throughout the season follow
twitter.com/AthlonSports

ATHLON SPORTS
AMERICA'S PREMIER SPORTS PUBLISHER

EDITORIAL
Executive Editors — Mitchell Light, Rich McVey
Senior Editor — Robert T. Doster III
Features Editor — Nathan Rush
Deputy Online Editor — Steven Lassan
Senior Writer — David Fox
Editors — Braden Gall, Mark Ross
Director of Photography — Tim Clark
Assistant Editors — Martin Brady, Brian Hampton, Carla Swank

PRODUCTION
Art Director — Matthew Taliaferro
Production Manager — Mark Malone
Graphic Designer — Eva Elliott

NATIONAL SALES & MARKETING

Publisher	Rob Harrison	(212) 730-7971
Michigan/Detroit	Chauvin Media Group	(248) 918-2414
Northeast	Anthony R. Hagelgans	(615) 440-5588
New Jersey	Gotham Media Group	(201) 529-2990
Midwest	Gregory J. Morin	(847) 727-8515
Charlotte/Texas	Tom Burr	(615) 440-5586
California	Fuel 360	(626) 229-9955
Southeast	Eddie Gonzalez	(770) 578-5129
International/Fantasy	Richard Beck	(615) 242-7984
State Sales	Bill Gaglione	(615) 440-5504
New York	Patrick Ferencz	(212) 730-7805
Integrated Sales	Chris Gardner	(615) 440-5596
Director of Marketing	Jeff Dunetz	(212) 730-0186
Events Marketing Manager	Kelly Duke	(615) 440-5594
Marketing Coordinator/New York	Anna Feagan	(212) 730-7931
Direct Response	Eva Grodberg	(212) 645-6139

ATHLON SPORTS MAGAZINE
SVP, Newspaper Relations — Jerry Lyles
Production Director — Sam Payne
Marketing Coordinator — Karen Coleman

INTERACTIVE
V.P., Digital — Michael McCracken
Junior Project Manager — Erin Dugan
Senior Game Developer — Eric Olson
Junior Developer — Michael Harley
Interactive Art Director — Dave Gates

CLIENT SERVICES
Director — Jessica Anderson
Account Supervisor — Katie Hilton
Account Coordinator — Elizabeth Masterson

FULFILLMENT (615) 242-7986
Director — Susan Clifft Malone
Supervisor — Michelle Conrad
Associate — Jonathan Lloyd

CIRCULATION – SPECIAL INTEREST PUBLICATIONS
Pro Circ Retail Solutions — Scott Hill

COLLECTIBLES (615) 255-8636
Division President — Richard Beck
Manager, Internet/Mail Order — Jeff Duello
Director of Charity Auctions — Kyle Gibson

CORPORATE
CEO — Spencer Hays
EVP, COO — Chuck Allen
CFO — Mary Lee Dunn
Chief Revenue Officer — Bryce Wells
Director, Sponsored Content — Charlie Miller
A/R Manager — Lu Ann Selby
A/P & Payroll Manager — Sommer Stephens
Executive Assistant — Doris Kyle

2451 ATRIUM WAY, SUITE 320, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37214
(615) 327-0747 FAX (615) 327-1149

©2013 ATHLON SPORTS COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
Publisher not responsible for unsolicited art, photos or manuscripts. This publication of sports journalism is not sponsored or authorized by the NFL or any holder of any trademark or service mark.

zep
COMMERCIAL
Desengrasante espumoso extraño
Heavy Duty Foaming Degreaser
Thick foam cuts through grease and grime, clinging to uneven and vertical surfaces
KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN AND PETS.
WARNING: EYE IRRITANT. MAY CAUSE ALLERGIC SKIN REACTION.
HARMFUL IF INHALED. CONTENTS UNDER PRESSURE.
ADVERTENCIA: OJOS IRRITANTE. PUEDE CAUSAR UNA REACCIÓN ALÉRGICA DE LA PIEL. ES DAÑINO SI SE LO INHALA. CONTENIDO BAJO PRESIÓN.
NET WT. 1 lb. 2 oz. (18 oz./510 g)

Stays Put. Digs Deep. Cuts Grease.

You can't clean a greasy, grimy, dirty, filthy surface if the cleaner won't stay where you spray it. Our foaming, citrus-based solvent sprays from any angle and stays put until the grease is gone. Even on hard to reach, vertical surfaces.

zep COMMERCIAL®

CLEAN LIKE A PRO™

To Learn More:

www.mycleanlikeapro.com

Easy to apply.

No hot tire pick-up.

100% Guaranteed Performance.

Durable no peel surface.

DON'T RE-DO THE GARAGE. REINVENT IT.

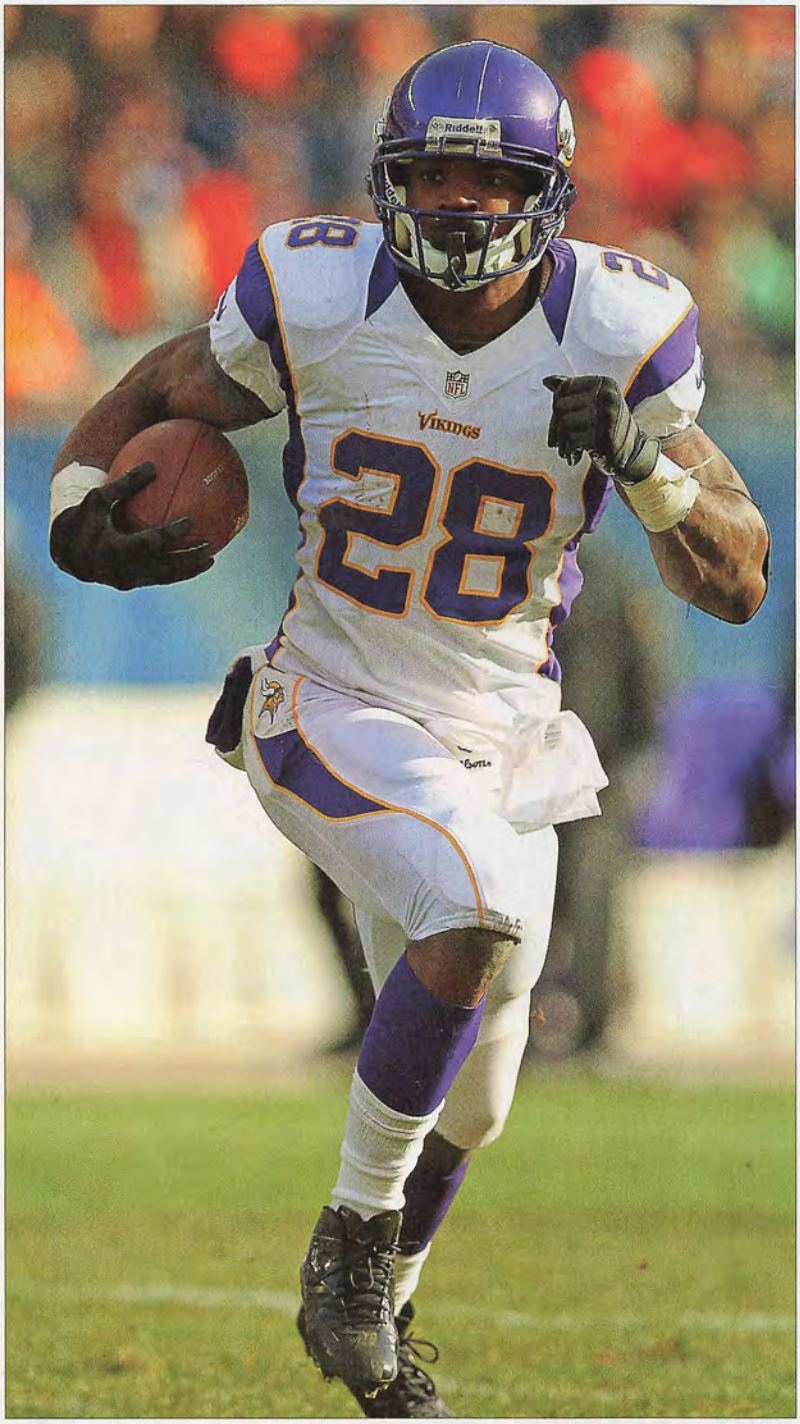
Rust-Oleum's EPOXY SHIELD Garage Floor Coating brings the latest technology to your garage. With a simple roll-on application you can create a stunning showroom finish. And its unsurpassed performance is 100% guaranteed. So go ahead and add a new room to your house this weekend.

RUST-OLEUM®

THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING.

WWW.EPOXYSHIELD.COM

© 2011 Rust-Oleum



16 A.D.: Quest for 2,500
Adrian Peterson has set an impossible goal for himself this season. Of course, he specializes in the impossible.

10 12 Things to Watch
The Ravens turn a page, Tim Tebow goes job-hunting, and much more.

14 Playoffs or Bust in Big D
Jerry Jones goes all in – with the same group that fell short in 2012.

20 Spreading the Wealth
The read-option has taken the NFL by storm.

24 Coaching Carousel
Just like last year, eight NFL teams are under new leadership in 2013.

26 Extra Points
Pinch-zebras, VY's vanishing stash, the Calendar of the Weird and more.

34 2003 Draft Revisited
The draft that gave us Troy Polamalu also produced Charles Rogers.

40 2013 Draft Recap
The Big Uglies outshone the pretty-boy skill players on Draft Day.

46 Fantasy Football Forecast
Our big board and position rankings are essential draft-day ammo.

56 AFC Predictions
124 Sideline Show
126 2013 NFL Schedule
128 NFC Predictions
198 2012 NFL Stats
200 The Back Page

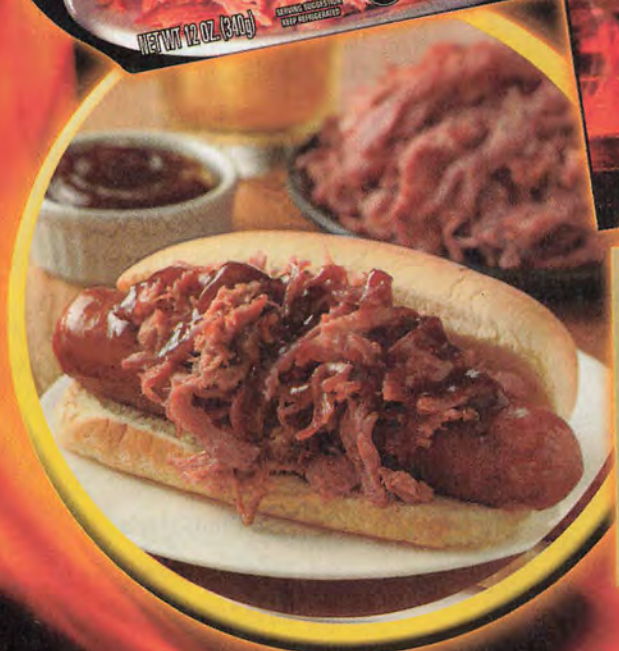
CONTRIBUTORS

Contributing Writers: Jim Armstrong, Kent Babb, Scott Bordow, Scott Brown, Rich Campbell (Washington Times), Jeff Duncan, Scott Fowler, Eric Gilmore, Kevin Goheen, Bruce Herman, Bob LeGere, Pat McManamon, John Niyo, Ryan O'Halloran, Ernie Palladino, Dan Raley, Leo Roth, Phil Sheridan, Ethan Skolnick, Rick Stroud, Jim Thomas, Ralph Vacchiano, Dan Widerer, Jason Wilde, Charean Williams, Aaron Wilson, Bernie Wilson, Phil Wilson

Ready To Be A Smoke Master?

Tailgate with Curly's.

We smoke our Pulled Pork and Sausage for hours over a natural hickory wood fire.
So they're ready in minutes from your grill or microwave. Making you, the Smoke Master!



Big House Sausage

Ingredients:

- 1 Package of Curly's Smokehouse Sausage Links
- 1 Tub of Curly's Sauceless Pulled Pork
- 1 package of Hot Dog buns
- Your favorite BBQ sauce

Directions:

Grill (or heat in microwave) the Curly's Smokehouse Sausage links. Follow Curly's Pulled Pork microwave cooking instructions on package and remove from microwave (be careful, it's hot!). Place Curly's Smokehouse Link on a bun and add pulled pork on top. Drizzle with your favorite BBQ sauce and enjoy.

Reccomended Side Dish: Beer.

Smoked for Hours Ready in Minutes

Check out Curlys.com for more recipes and ideas.

AFC

East

60 Buffalo
64 Miami
68 New England
72 New York

North

76 Baltimore
80 Cincinnati
84 Cleveland
88 Pittsburgh

South

92 Houston
96 Indianapolis
100 Jacksonville
104 Tennessee

West

108 Denver
112 Kansas City
116 Oakland
120 San Diego

NFC

East

132 Dallas
136 New York
142 Philadelphia
146 Washington

North

150 Chicago
154 Detroit
158 Green Bay
162 Minnesota

South

166 Atlanta
170 Carolina
174 New Orleans
178 Tampa Bay

West

182 Arizona
186 St. Louis
190 San Francisco
194 Seattle

CONTRIBUTORS

Cover Photographers: Sam Bradford: Steve Woltmann; Colin Kaepernick: Michael Zagaris/San Francisco 49ers/Getty Images; Russell Wilson: AP Photo/Rhona Wise; Ben Roethlisberger: AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar; LeSean McCoy: Jim McIsaac/Getty Images; Nick Mangold; AP Photo/Kevin Terrell; Drew Brees: AP Photo/Paul Jasienski; Adrian Peterson; Jonathan Daniel/Getty Images; Ryan Tannehill: AP Photo/Lynne Sladky; Maurice Jones-Drew: Chris Trotman/Getty Images; Arian Foster: Michael DeHoog/Sports Imagery/Getty Images; Aaron Rodgers, Jamaal Charles: AP Photo/Scott Boehm ; Larry Fitzgerald, Philip Rivers: AP Photo/Gregg Trott; Matt Ryan, Peyton Manning, Eli Manning, Darren McFadden, Doug Martin: Peter Brouillet; Joe Flacco, Robert Griffin III, C.J. Spiller, A.J. Green: Athlon Sports; Cam Newton, Trent Richardson, Tony Romo: AP Photo/Paul Spinelli; Jay Cutler, Calvin Johnson, Andrew Luck, Tom Brady; Jake Locker: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

182

12 THINGS TO WATCH

An offseason marked by change should result in a season marked by intrigue

by Charean Williams

1. RAVENS MINUS REED AND RAY RAY

Ray Lewis and Ed Reed were the heart and soul of the Ravens for the 11 seasons they played together. Baltimore played only five games without both of them, going 1-4 in 2005 when both were injured. With one or both in the lineup, the Ravens were 112-74, including 9-6 in the postseason. But Lewis retired after his 17th season ended with a Super Bowl title, and Reed signed with Houston as a free agent.

The Ravens have looked ahead and not behind after winning the title in February. They will have at least seven new starters after an offseason of change, with all eyes on the replacements for Lewis and Reed. The Ravens signed ex-Raider Michael Huff and spent a first-round pick on Florida's Matt Elam to replace Reed at safety. Second-round pick Arthur Brown gets the first shot at Lewis' middle linebacker spot. It is a new era in Baltimore, though the Ravens hope only the names have changed.

2. ROOKIE QB ROADBLOCKS

Last season was the year of the rookie quarterback, with five first-year signal-callers – the Colts' Andrew Luck, Redskins' Robert Griffin III, Seahawks' Russell Wilson, Dolphins' Ryan Tannehill and Browns' Brandon Weeden – starting Week 1 and three leading their respective teams to the playoffs. Wilson became just the sixth rookie passer to win a postseason game.

This year's quarterback class, however, is far more uncertain. The Bills made EJ Manuel the only QB selected in the first round of the draft, but he is battling Kevin Kolb for the starting job. The Jets' Geno Smith is starring in an ongoing soap opera competition with Mark Sanchez and David Garrard. The Bucs' Mike Glennon is waiting his turn behind Josh Freeman, who is in the last year of his contract and on a short leash with coach Greg Schiano.

There are even more roadblocks on the path from the draft to the field for the Eagles' Matt Barkley, Giants' Ryan Nassib, Raiders' Tyler Wilson, Steelers' Landry Jones, Chargers' Brad Sorensen, 49ers' B.J. Daniels, Falcons' Sean Renfree and Broncos' Zac Dysert. Has the first-year QB phenomenon fizzled out? Or will the rookies rise to the top again in 2013?

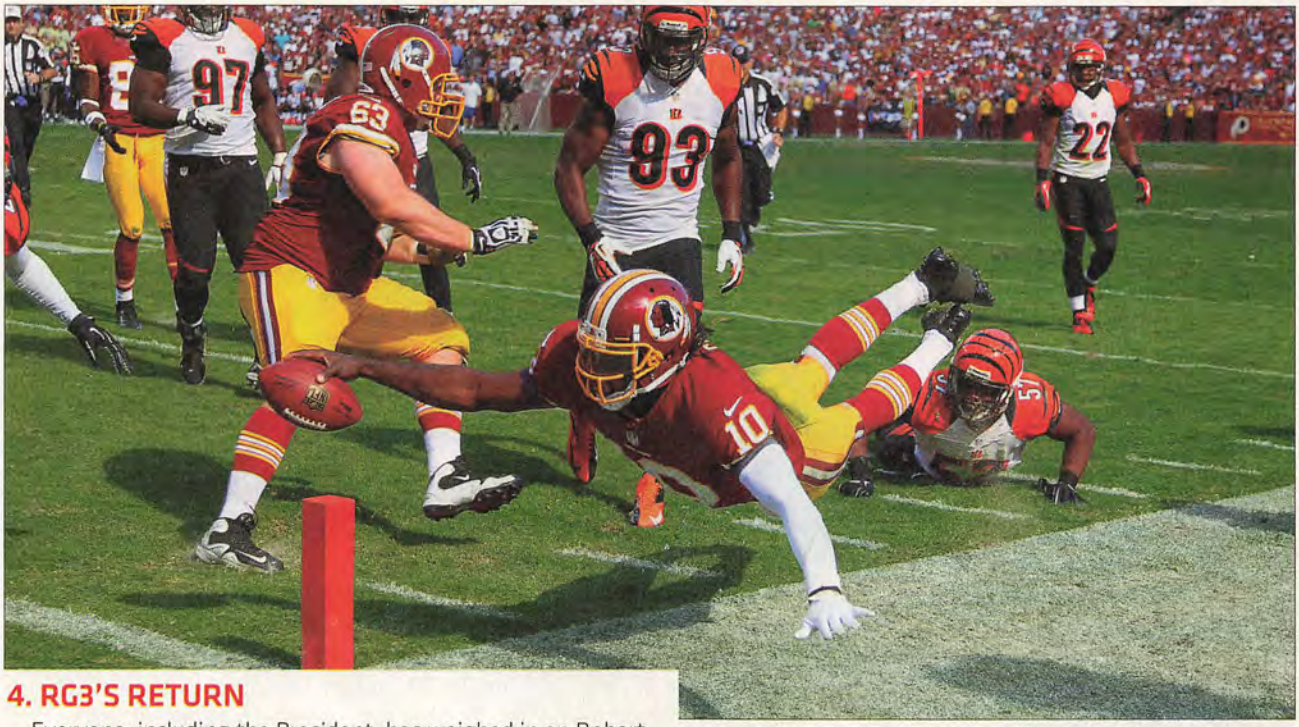
3. TIM TEBOW'S FUTURE

Never has so much fuss been made over a player who played only 77 snaps. But Tim Tebow, who played more on special teams than at quarterback last season, is the NFL's most popular, visible backup quarterback.

The Jets traded for Tebow last March, with plans to use him in innovative ways. But Tebow rarely saw the field, throwing eight passes and running 32 times. When the Jets fell out of the playoff race, it was Greg McElroy, not Tebow, who started the season finale.

Now, Tebow is starting over again.

Lewis/Reed: Ronald Martinez/Getty Images; Tebow: Athlon Sports
Griffin: Bruce Schwartzman; Payton: AP Photo/Kevin Terrell



4. RG3'S RETURN

Everyone, including the President, has weighed in on Robert Griffin III's knee injury. Griffin had surgery on his right knee on Jan. 9, after tearing the ACL, LCL and meniscus during the Redskins' playoff loss to the Seahawks. President Barack Obama told Griffin he needed to "better protect" himself, and coach Mike Shanahan has said Griffin will learn from the injury.

Griffin, the No. 2 overall pick last year behind Andrew Luck, was named Offensive Rookie of the Year after completing 65.6 percent of his passes for 3,200 yards with 20 touchdowns, five interceptions and a 102.4 passer rating. But Griffin, the Redskins and Dr. James Andrews all were criticized after Griffin played through a knee sprain, missing only one game. Griffin helped the Redskins to their first playoff berth in five years with a victory over Dallas in the regular-season finale, but he further injured his knee against the Seahawks in the Wild Card game.

Griffin has overcome a similar injury. While at Baylor, he tore the ACL in his right knee during a 2009 game against Northwestern State. He was as good as new for 2010. The Redskins are hoping for a similar comeback this season.

5. WES WELKER + PEYTON = SUPER BOWL?

Peyton Manning was the winner and Tom Brady the loser this offseason when Wes Welker signed a two-year, $12 million contract with the Broncos. Welker averaged 112 catches during his six seasons in New England. The receiver the Patriots signed to replace him, Danny Amendola, has only 196 career catches in four seasons.

Welker is 32, but he has shown no signs of slowing. His 118 catches last season tied for second-most in the NFL, earning him a fifth Pro Bowl.

The Broncos frequently will use a three-receiver set as they did last year with Brandon Stokley or tight end Jacob Tamme in the slot. Denver lined up in a three-receiver set 540 times last season, throwing 310 passes out of that formation. Demaryius Thomas, Eric Decker and Welker will provide Manning with more weapons than Brady could ever dream of having.

6. JASON GARRETT'S FUTURE

Jason Garrett is 21–19 in two-plus seasons as the Cowboys' head coach. He was dogged by rumors during the season that Mike Holmgren and Sean Payton had designs on his job. And a third consecutive non-winning season brought calls for Garrett's head after the season.

But Jerry Jones didn't listen. He brought back Garrett, although the Cowboys owner has made it quite clear that he is out of patience. Jones has kept only one coach more than four years, and that was the first coach he hired, Jimmy Johnson. The other six have all stayed four years or less.

It could be playoffs or bust for Garrett in 2013.

7. PAYTON'S PLACE

The Saints were 62–34 in Sean Payton's first six seasons, with four playoff appearances and a Super Bowl title. Without Payton last season, they went 7–9.

Payton was suspended in 2012 for his role in the team's three-year bounty program. General manager Mickey Loomis and assistant head coach Joe Vitt also served suspension time in 2012.

So how much is a head coach worth? Payton signed a contract extension that reportedly will pay him $8 million a season, which is believed to make him the highest-paid coach in any sport.

The Saints didn't blame their sub-.500 season on Payton's absence, with Drew Brees saying, "We have zero excuses." But the Saints should return to contender status with Payton's return.

8. IS ATLANTA READY FOR THE NEXT STEP?

The Falcons recruited Steven Jackson and Osi Umenyiora, and they talked Tony Gonzalez out of retirement. They drafted cornerbacks Desmond Trufant and Robert Alford in the first two rounds. On paper, the Falcons are better than they were last season, when they went 13–3 and lost to San Francisco in the NFC Championship Game.

No longer can it be said that Matt Ryan has never won a playoff game. Ryan, previously 0–3 in the postseason, led the Falcons to a comeback drive in the waning seconds to beat the Seahawks in the divisional round. The Falcons spent the offseason trying to take the next step.

9. LUCKY WITH LUCK

Most teams take years to replace a future Hall of Fame quarterback. The Dolphins have seen 17 different quarterbacks start since Dan Marino retired. The Bills still are looking for the next Jim Kelly, having drafted EJ Manuel in the first round this year.

But the Colts went from Peyton Manning to Andrew Luck, the No. 1 pick in the 2012 draft, without missing a beat. Manning went 3–13 and 13–3 in his first two seasons in Indianapolis. Luck won 11 games last season as a rookie. Even bigger things are expected in 2013.

Luck should improve on his numbers from last season (54.1 completion percentage, 4,374 yards, 23 touchdowns), and the Colts, with the free agent additions of offensive tackle Gosder Cherilus, nose tackle Aubrayo Franklin, wide receiver Darrius Heyward-Bey and safety LaRon Landry, could give Houston a run for the division title.

10. SEATTLE VS. SAN FRANCISCO

As good as both teams are, with young quarterbacks, the Seahawks and the 49ers could develop the preeminent rivalry in the NFL for the next decade. The teams split their season series last year, with San Francisco winning 13–6 at Candlestick on Oct. 18, and the Seahawks taking a 42–13 victory at CenturyLink on Dec. 23. They came close to playing a decisive NFC Championship Game, but the Falcons rallied to beat Seattle 30–28 in the divisional round.

What the Cowboys and 49ers had in the 1990s, the Seahawks and 49ers could have for the 2010s. They are a lot alike, having hired successful college coaches from the Pac-12, drafted quarterbacks after the first round and picked them to start over higher-priced veterans, and built around their defenses.

11. FUTURE OF THE READ OPTION

The Packers sent their defensive coaches to Texas A&M this offseason to figure out how to stop the read option. That came after 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick ran for 181 yards, a record for a quarterback, on 16 carries in a divisional-round playoff game against them.

The Ravens, though, found the cure for the read option in the Super Bowl: Hit the quarterback. With Terrell Suggs keeping an eye on him, Kaepernick ran only twice in the first half. He finished with seven carries for 62 yards and a touchdown.

Kaepernick, Robert Griffin III and Russell Wilson (left) were successful running the read option last season. But defensive coordinators have spent the offseason studying the formation, and, like the Wildcat offense, some believe the read option will have a short life span.

12. NEW CHIEFS IN KANSAS CITY

The Chiefs have a new general manager in John Dorsey. They have a new coach in Andy Reid. They have a new quarterback in Alex Smith. They have the new No. 1 overall draft pick in offensive tackle Eric Fisher.

Chiefs fans hope that translates into a quick turnaround. Kansas City went 23–41 the last four seasons with Scott Pioli as the general manager. The Chiefs have seen the postseason only once the last six seasons.

But Dorsey and Reid didn't find the cupboard bare. The Chiefs did have six Pro Bowlers last season despite a 2–14 record. They are even better now after adding Sean Smith, Dunta Robinson, Akeem Jordan, Anthony Fasano and Donnie Avery, among others, in free agency.

Gore: AP Photo/Elaine Thompson; Wilson: Craig Mitchelldyer

NISSAN

Innovation that excites

OWNERS. VOLUNTEERS. HEISMANS.

Habitat for Humanity, by humanity. With the help of Nissan, the Heisman Trust, Danny Wuerffel, and five other Heisman trophy winners, Aldon Lightfoot's family was able to build their future from the ground up. Check out the build at NissanUSA.com/habitat-for-humanity.

DANNY WUERFFEL
1996 Heisman Winner

ALDON LIGHTFOOT
Future Homeowner

Always wear your seat belt, and please don't drink and drive. ©2013 Nissan North America, Inc.

PLAYOFFS OR BUST IN BIG D

The owner isn't happy. The coach is on the hot seat. The quarterback needs to produce. So what else is new in Dallas?

by Charean Williams

It was a long, long time ago. The Cowboys' last Super Bowl-winning season was so long ago that Bill Clinton was president, O.J. Simpson was acquitted of murder and the World Wide Web still was in its infancy. It was so long ago that Cowboys third-year left tackle Tyron Smith was five years old.

Yes, indeed, those were the good ol' days in Dallas, when Lombardi Trophies seemed to grow on trees.

The Cowboys are now in the midst of their longest championship drought in team history. It's been 17 years, and counting, since their last title.

The Cowboys' Lombardi Trophies are dusty, their rings tarnished. They are 140–141, including a 2–7 postseason record, since their last championship season of 1995. They are what they are — a mediocre franchise. They have not been to the playoffs since 2009, going 22–26 the past three seasons combined. The Cowboys lost win-or-go-home games in Week 17 each of the past two seasons.

"We are in a rut that is akin to lying dead in a coffin."

– Cowboys owner Jerry Jones

"We are in a rut that is akin to lying dead in a coffin," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones says.

Yet, that hasn't stopped Jones from hoping to party like it's 1995. Jones believes. He believes in Tony Romo. He believes in Jason Garrett. He believes in Monte Kiffin. He believes another championship is awaiting the Cowboys this season.

Then again, Jones, an eternal optimist, also believed in Quincy Carter and Dave Campo and Brian Stewart and every other quarterback, head coach and defensive coordinator to call Valley Ranch home for even a season. Every year begins with Super Bowl expectations for the Cowboys, and lately, every season has ended in the blame game. They are a broken record.

The Cowboys have had 16 starting quarterbacks — including Garrett and current quarterbacks coach Wade Wilson — as well as six head coaches, eight offensive coordinators and seven defensive coordinators in the past 17 years, but only one general manager. That's why Jones, as owner/general manager, has received much of the criticism for the team's failures.

The Cowboys' drafts from 2006-11 have produced only eight current or projected starters. Not one pick remains from the 2009 draft, and nickel back Orlando Scandrick is the sole representative from the Class of 2008.

Despite his failures as general manager, Jones isn't going anywhere.

"I pretty much go with what I did the night I bought the team," Jones says. "I said I was going to be the GM. … It would be a facade if someone else was sitting in my shoes and someone thought they were spending the money. It would be deception. I would grant you the decisions that have been made over the years have not produced a Super Bowl, two Super Bowls or three Super Bowls that I would like to have been a part of. The only thing I am going to do is keep trying, and then make sure I get the credit when we do get that one. Y'all are going to give it to me, aren't you?"

AP Photo/James D Smith

Jones had promised to make this an uncomfortable offseason at the team's Valley Ranch headquarters. But it was something of an offseason of discontent for Cowboys fans as Jones retained Garrett, who became head coach when Wade Phillips was fired midway through the 2010 season.

The Cowboys gave Tony Romo a six-year, $108 million extension, making him the sixth-highest-paid player in the NFL despite his 1–6 record in win-or-go-home games. They franchised Anthony Spencer, who will make the move from outside linebacker to defensive end. They made no big moves in free agency.

Defensive coordinator Rob Ryan was the scapegoat, fired by the Cowboys after they decided on a shift to the 4-3 scheme. Kiffin, 73, is one of the fathers of the Tampa-2 defense, along with Tony Dungy. Five other new assistants have joined him on the Garrett's staff.

But Kiffin was not greeted by Warren Sapp, Derrick Brooks and John Lynch as he was when he arrived in Tampa Bay as defensive coordinator in 1996. DeMarcus Ware, Spencer, Bruce Carter, Sean Lee, Brandon Carr and Morris Claiborne are building blocks, good enough that Kiffin believes the Cowboys can make a quick, successful transition from the 3-4.

"We are not the 1996 Buccaneers by any sense," Kiffin says. "…We have a good nucleus here for a 4-3 defense, but we still need to get better, no doubt about it."

Since the Cowboys aren't the second coming of Doomsday, having allowed the most yards in team history last season, Kiffin might be given the benefit of the doubt. But the honeymoon is over for Garrett and Romo.

Romo, 33, ranks first in team history in completion percentage (64.7) and touchdown passes (177). He is second in career attempts (3,240) and completions (2,097). He is 55–38 as a starter since taking over for Drew Bledsoe in the middle of the 2006 season.

But Romo compares more to Danny White with a 1–3 playoff record than he does to Roger Staubach or Troy Aikman. He could not even get the Cowboys to the playoffs the past three seasons, going 17–21 as the starter. Still, the Cowboys compensated Romo like the franchise quarterback they believe he is, giving him the second-most guaranteed money in NFL history at $55 million.

"We have great belief of Tony Romo as our quarterback," Garrett says. "Tony has won a lot of big games for us to get us to the point where we can play for the division in Week 17 in consecutive years. We all know that we want to take the next step, and Tony is going to be a big part of that going forward. I think you have to understand the whole body of work. I think you have to understand that winning is where we get evaluated. He's done a lot of great things for this franchise. We're excited about him being our quarterback."

Garrett has spent the offseason considering relinquishing the play-calling duties to his offensive coordinator, Bill Callahan. Garrett has been the play-caller for Romo since 2007, when he was hired as offensive coordinator, and there is speculation that Jones is forcing the move. But Garrett and Jones repeatedly have insisted that it is Garrett's decision.

Garrett, 21–19 as a head coach, might be down to his last chance in Dallas.

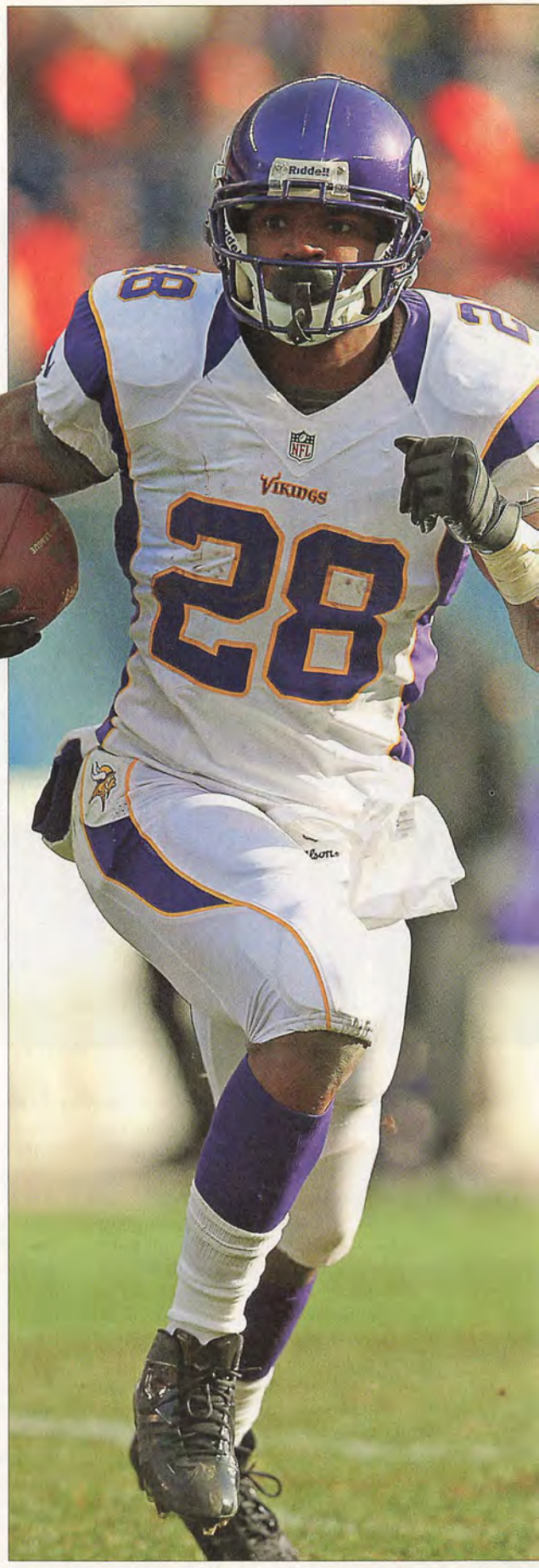
"This thing has been a big disappointment the last couple of years," Jones says. "I'm not satisfied. We've got to start knocking on the door. So there's a lot of resolve and not a lot of patience. That's where we are, and Jason knows that.

"…I don't want to go 8–8 (in 2013)."

ADRIAN PETERSON: QUEST FOR 2,500

After a stunning return from a torn ACL, A.D. has set an equally stunning goal for the upcoming season

by Dan Wiederer



FOX Sports sideline reporter Pam Oliver was the first to deliver the news. Only moments after the Vikings' 2012 regular season ended, Oliver set about informing Adrian Peterson of his high-profile disappointment.

As Oliver stopped Peterson on his way off Mall of America Field, the final tallies were official, and the Viking star's 2,097 rushing yards — including 199 in a playoff-clinching win over Green Bay that afternoon — had not surpassed the 2,105 yards Eric Dickerson amassed in 1984.

Nine yards shy of a new record. Nine measly yards.

"You played your heart out," Oliver said. "Nine yards. Boy. That's got to hurt."

Peterson recoiled with surprise.

"Nine yards what?" he questioned. "Nine yards what? From breaking it?"

"That's what I heard," Oliver said.

Peterson shook his head.

"Oh. Well, ultimately, we got the 'W.' And that was my main focus coming into the game. I said, 'If it happens, it happens. But don't focus on it.'"

Still, Peterson's initial shock was obvious. And for a moment — for the next couple weeks, really — his mind-boggling productivity in a comeback season for the ages was often footnoted by those nine yards he didn't get.

"I really don't feel like it's out of reach. You look at it and it's what, around 155 yards per game? With him, that's doable."

– Pro Bowl fullback Jerome Felton

Oliver was the first to ask. But fans would follow. Reporters, too.

And when Peterson was asked for the 328th time to summarize his deflation in not being able to topple Dickerson, he finally just shrugged, certain that those nine yards he didn't gain were not more significant than the 2,097 he had churned out.

Those nine yards certainly weren't more meaningful than the 861 he put up in December alone, including a clutch 26-yard dash on his final regular-season carry, the one

that put a rookie kicker in position for a last-second game-winning chip shot.

Those missing nine yards weren't more important than the Vikings' 10 wins, their surprising playoff berth or the MVP award Peterson earned.

"It just shows me how people are never pleased," Peterson says.

Yet as the thought of those nine yards twisted inside his hyper-competitive, ultra-ambitious mind, he quickly settled on a new number: 2,500.

Yep, this is Peterson's rushing yardage wish for 2013. It's the MVP's new goal, outlandish and intriguing all at once.

Sure, 2,500 seems like a preposterous bar to set. After all, of the six running backs to previously rush for 2,000 yards in a season, only one topped 1,400 the following year. That was Barry Sanders, who had 1,491 yards in 1998 a year after gaining 2,053 with the Lions.

But with a goal system that Vikings coach Leslie Frazier labels as "name it and claim it," Peterson asks that everyone view 2,500 yards as attainable, not impossible.

"All things are possible through God who strengthens me," Peterson says. "That's a mark I want to reach. No one has ever tried to accomplish something like that."

"With Adrian and the way he goes after things, if 2,500 yards is in his sights, there's no reason to question it," right guard Brandon Fusco says.

And then there's Jared Allen, a five-time Pro Bowler who in 2011 fell just short of a prestigious NFL single-season record himself. Allen's 22 sacks that season were 0.5 shy of Michael Strahan's all-time record, a magnificent season with opponents always game-planning to limit him.

But then in 2012, Allen battled injuries, faced increased attention from offensive coordinators and wound up with only 12 sacks in his sequel season.

So, yeah, he knows the challenge of trying to better a career year. Still, Allen feels nothing but love for Peterson's push toward 2,500.

"With that dude? It's logical," Allen says. "And yeah, that's crazy. … But I think too, with the way the league is now as such a pass-dominant league, you're seeing smaller fronts. You're not having that 330-pound nose tackle anymore. You've got to have guys there who can rush the passer because of these spread offenses and these check-down systems. So you get a team like us that likes to run the ball with a back like Adrian and smaller (defenders) on the field, 2,500 might not be a stretch."

Peterson has now begun this quest: The march toward 2,500.

This is what he has mapped out for his encore to a year in which he posted the second-greatest rushing season in history after overcoming major reconstructive surgery on his left knee.

And only two days after the Vikings bowed out of last season's playoffs, Peterson had already started gathering believers.

"I really don't feel like it's out of reach," Pro Bowl fullback Jerome Felton says. "You look at it and it's what, around 155 yards per game? With him, that's doable."

Technically, Peterson will have to average 156.25 yards per game to reach 2,500. But last year, he topped 150 yards seven times in the final 10 games.

OK, so maybe at this point Peterson should be granted the license to dream big. Or perhaps, more precisely, to strive big.

Just consider the 2012 calendar year. On New Year's Day, he was still in an Alabama hospital bed, two days removed from what could have been a career-derailing operation.

Immediately following ACL and MCL surgery, Peterson's 2012 return seemed iffy at best. Coming back from an injury that severe, logic said, meant that Peterson would be lucky to be back at full strength by October, fortunate to even make a push at 1,000 yards. Instead, by Dec. 31, Peterson was waking up in the Twin Cities with those 2,097 yards under his belt, the star who had taken his game to a new level while propelling his team into the postseason.

Peterson's production never tailed off, either. Not after the Vikings lost top receiver Percy Harvin in Week 9 to a season-ending ankle injury. Not after second-year quarterback Christian Ponder malfunctioned into a maddening stretch of midseason inconsistency.

During the final eight games, Peterson actually accumulated more rushing yards (1,322) than Ponder had passing yards (1,192).

Oh, and that ridiculous finishing charge, an average of 172 yards per game and 6.4 yards per carry over the final five weeks? Turns out Peterson did all that with a sports hernia injury that required surgery after the season.

Not once over the final six weeks did Peterson deliver a full week of practice, limited most weeks to just a Friday cameo. Yet on Sundays, he never showed signs of pain or fatigue.

Opposite: Jonathan Daniel/Getty Images; Above: Andy Lyons/Getty Images

Said Frazier: "I'd talk to him on those Fridays when he would get in some practice time and say, 'What do you think?' He'd say, 'Coach, I'll be ready. I'll be ready.' But I couldn't always tell if he was going to be ready. And you'd go through warm-ups in pregame, and it was like, 'Man, he's going to be OK.'

"But still in the back of your mind you're just wondering if he can finish. And then he'd break a long run and you're like, 'He's different.'"

Peterson's path back to such an otherworldly level was paved by positivity in the wake of his knee injury. It started even before he left the hospital and was certainly evident when he met the media for the first time two weeks later.

It was then that he first vowed not only to be back for the season opener on Sept. 9 but also to return better than ever.

Peterson's promises were not hollow, and he continued oozing optimism during his time working with physical therapist Russ Paine in Houston.

Paine marveled first at Peterson's genuine friendliness and push to encourage other patients at the facility. Then Paine watched as Peterson attacked his own recovery with so much purpose.

People kept reminding Peterson he'd never be the same back he was before the injury. Which gave him two options: to come back a bit slower and less explosive, or to return better than he'd ever been.

Paine understood why Peterson, against all common sense, promised to be back starting on Sept. 9. Even with the Vikings reminding him that caution and patience were acceptable, Peterson craved the added pressure.

"It forced him to his ultimate," Paine says. "When you have someone like him who's an absolute superhuman and better than everyone else, he could be at 90 percent and still wow everyone. But when you're in the top half of one percent of the world's athletes and you then push yourself to focus and achieve at that level, then you become a freaking superstar.

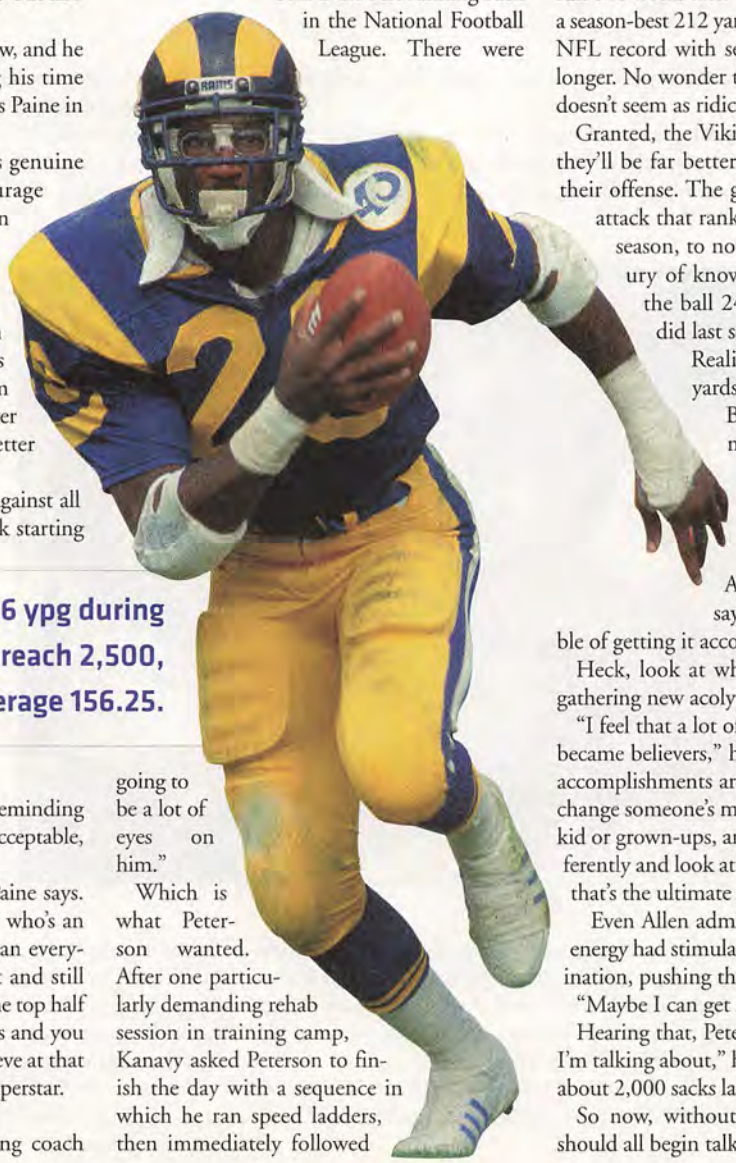
"That's what separates Adrian."

Vikings strength and conditioning coach Tom Kanavy and head athletic trainer Eric Sugarman tapped into Peterson's intensity in the early parts of training camp. The Vikings cautiously set Peterson aside on the Physically Unable to Perform list when camp opened.

But Peterson, while understanding the team's logic, was agitated by the move and decided he'd attack his isolated rehab work in a manner where he'd finish each day having exerted himself more than any player who had engaged in the full practice.

Sugarman's amazement only heightened when thinking back to the flood of thoughts he had when approaching Peterson immediately after the running back's knee blew out on Christmas Eve 2011.

"I knew instantly the gravity of what had happened," Sugarman says. "And I remember thinking, 'Wow, these coming months are going to be filled with pressure and scrutiny. This wasn't somebody nobody had ever heard of. This is the best running back in the National Football League. There were going to be a lot of eyes on him."



Dickerson averaged 131.6 ypg during his run to the record. To reach 2,500, A.D. needs to average 156.25.

Which is what Peterson wanted. After one particularly demanding rehab session in training camp, Kanavy asked Peterson to finish the day with a sequence in which he ran speed ladders, then immediately followed each set with a 40-yard dash. Peterson was torching the grass, so much so that Kanavy secretly timed several of the 40s. Not one registered above 4.8 seconds, with Peterson frequently dipping into the low 4.5s.

Says Kanavy: "When you have a genetic freak who had always kept himself in tip-top shape and then sets out to absolutely attack the rehab, that is what the result is. Everybody got a chance to see it. And it was at a level surprising to everyone other than Adrian."

Week by week, Peterson's odds-defying comeback gathered steam. He delivered the longest run of his career in Week 13 at Green Bay, bursting 82 yards for a touchdown on a day when he ripped off 210 yards on only 21 carries.

He then proceeded to match that 82-yard run two weeks later in St. Louis on his way to a season-best 212 yards. In all, Peterson tied an NFL record with seven runs of 50 yards or longer. No wonder that 2,500-yard landmark doesn't seem as ridiculous as it should.

Granted, the Vikings know that as a team, they'll be far better off if they can diversify their offense. The goal is to revive a passing attack that ranked 31st in the league last season, to not give opponents the luxury of knowing Peterson will touch the ball 24 times per game like he did last season.

Realistically, 1,700 or 1,800 yards would be marvelous.

But hey, if the MVP running back wants to make a push at 2,500, you give him the green light.

"I think it's a good goal to have if you're Adrian Peterson," Frazier says. "He's more than capable of getting it accomplished."

Heck, look at what Peterson did last fall, gathering new acolytes week after week.

"I feel that a lot of people who doubted me became believers," he says. "The rewards and accomplishments are good. But being able to change someone's mindset, whether it's a little kid or grown-ups, and make them believe differently and look at things in a different light, that's the ultimate goal."

Even Allen admits that Peterson's positive energy had stimulated the entire team's imagination, pushing them to dream bigger.

"Maybe I can get 2,000 sacks," Allen jokes.

Hearing that, Peterson smiles. "That's what I'm talking about," he says. "He wasn't talking about 2,000 sacks last year or the year before."

So now, without skepticism, perhaps we should all begin talking about 2,500 yards.

Athlon Archive

— THE ESSENTIAL TOOLS OF —

TAILGATING

Strike On Box Matches
STRIKES
32 COUNT
CLOSE BEFORE STRIKING. KEEP AWAY FROM CHILDREN
Made in USA
TEXAS PETE
Hot Sauce
NET WT. 6 OZ. 170g
McQUEWICK
LIGHTER FUEL
COMBUSTIBLE PARA ENCENDEDOR
Excellent for Removing:
• Labels • Grease
• Tar • Oil Stains
Excelente para quitar:
• Etiquetas • Grasa • Brea • Aceite
DANGER: FLAMMABLE • HARMFUL OR FATAL IF SWALLOWED • READ CAUTION STATEMENT CAREFULLY
PELIGRO: INFLAMABLE • NOCIVO O FATAL SI SE INGIERE • LEA CON ATENCIÓN LA DECLARACIÓN DE PRECAUCIÓN • CONTIENE DISTILADO DE PETROLEO LIVIANO
8 fl. oz. (237 ml.)
CONTAINS LIGHT PETROLEUM DISTILATE

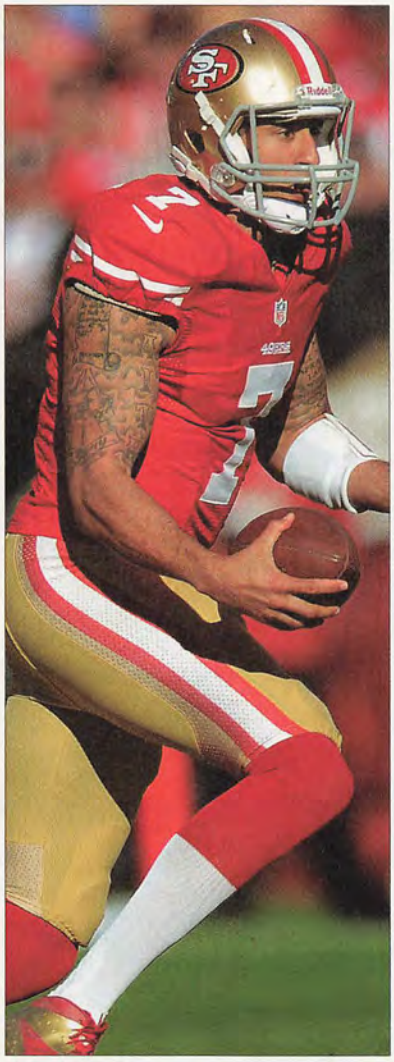
With the perfect balance of flavor and heat, Texas Pete® Hot Sauce is the winning game plan for grilling, tailgating or dinner. Pick up the complete line of Texas Pete® sauces and *go online now for recipes that will make you a tailgating hero.*

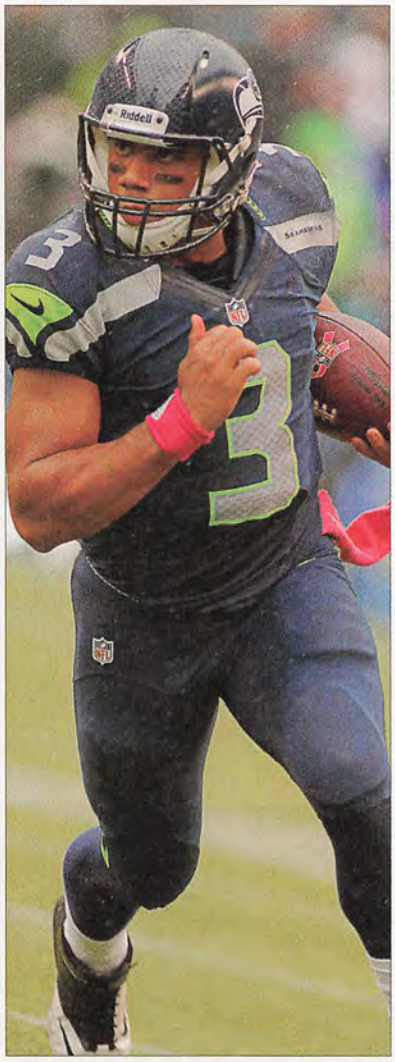
TEXASPETE.com

SPREADING THE WEALTH

The read-option has taken the NFL by storm

by Michael Bradley





You better have it figured out quickly, Chip. You, too, Doug. Because they will discover it pretty soon if you don't. "They" are your players, and if you don't understand the ways of the NFL, you don't stand a chance. At least that's what Pete Carroll says, and he knows. Boy, does he know.

To those who think Carroll is just the guy who moved from wild success at USC to within one late drive of reaching last year's NFC title game with the Seahawks, you should remember that he was at the bottom, too. That one-year stint with the Jets in '94? A disaster. Those three seasons (1997-99) with the Pats? Better, but Carroll still wasn't ready. They love him in Seattle now, but that affection was earned the hard way.

NFL fans with a sense of history believe that new Eagles coach Chip Kelly and rookie Buffalo boss Doug Marrone are in for tough times in their new towns, especially Kelly. He has never drawn a paycheck from an NFL team and has been asked to rescue a franchise that slid from NFC royalty to a lackadaisical, 4–12 punchline last season. While Kelly has drawn positive reviews for his high-speed training sessions — "It's like a freakin' track meet," running back LeSean McCoy says — that are accompanied by an earwax-pureeing musical soundtrack and conclude with player-specific smoothie drinks, he is trying to do something that precious few coaches have been able to do: jump from the college ranks to the NFL and succeed.

Kaepernick: Thearon W. Henderson/Getty Images); Wilson: Craig Mitchelldyer
Griffin: Athlon Sports; Kelly: Rich Schultz/Getty Images

"If you don't have it nailed down and are still finding it out, you're going to struggle until you do," Carroll says. "Hopefully, it won't be too late. Here, everything is so damn equal. You have less margin for error."

The NFL landscape is littered with the carcasses of coaches who jumped from the college world to the NFL and failed. Dennis Erickson, Nick Saban and Steve Spurrier all won national titles but couldn't succeed at a higher level. Former Stanford coach Jim Harbaugh made it to the Super Bowl last year with San Francisco, but he spent 14 years as an NFL quarterback and was hardly unfamiliar with professional life.

But Kelly has one thing going for him that his predecessors didn't. The NFL world is changing. Ten years ago, the idea of bringing a college offense into the professional world was laughable. Why not just run the wishbone? Today, the read-option is the hottest topic in NFL circles, short of whether Carrie Underwood can replicate the heat Faith Hill created with her "Sunday Night Football" opening.

"This game, everybody's always trying to get an advantage. It's (about) the next great thing, so to speak. I'm not saying this is the next great thing, but if you can force the pace in the game..."

– Eagles head coach Chip Kelly

Kelly has been quite secretive regarding his offense. But when he was at Oregon, Kelly ran a high-speed attack that spread the field, emphasized option concepts, maximized the number of snaps and relied on a signal system that was highly visual, rather than verbal. The prevailing attitude held that Oregon was pass happy. But the Ducks emphasized the run. UO averaged a modest 28.7 passes per game in 2012, more than 10 fewer than their opponents. Oregon ran it 52.8 times per game, more than all but five other schools. And while Kelly may be a complete NFL newb, his offense may be the one thing that allows him to acclimate quickly enough to keep his players from rebelling. Because Kelly isn't a college coach coming to the league with a college offense. He's a college coach coming to a league with a college offense that the pros love.

"It really stems back from the days of the wishbone," Cincinnati defensive coordinator Mike Zimmer says. "There are a lot of wishbone concepts."

The wishbone? Come on, now. Back in the '70s, when Emory Bellard's creation was the scourge of the college football world, we were told by everybody who knew that the offense would never work in the NFL. The defenders were too fast. The quarterbacks would get killed. The lack of a passing threat would allow teams to crowd the line of scrimmage. The only good things about it were the tear-away jerseys. And, now, more than two decades after Jimmy Johnson and his Miami Hurricanes buried the offense by outflanking it with superior athletes on defense, you're trying to say it's back and thriving in the NFL?

"A lot of it is the newness, like the Wildcat was three years ago," Zimmer says. "That was a fad at the time, and then teams went away from it."

The Wildcat isn't around any more, but the Pistol formation reached the Super Bowl last year. Washington and Robert Griffin III made it to the playoffs with an attack that emphasized the zone-read running attack — and ultimately resulted in a second ACL tear for Griffin. Carroll's Seahawks used elements of the offense last year. It's not as if we'll see Peyton Manning and Joe Flacco running the thing in 2013, but there are other ways to implement the college concepts. Kelly spent time with New England before the 2012 season, and not to teach Tom Brady how to handle the option. He was charged with helping New England speed things up and run more plays. For decades, everything in football flowed downhill, from the NFL to the college ranks to the high schools. Now, it seems as if the tide is running up, and Kelly will try to see if it can help him do what no one has done since Johnson led the Cowboys to a pair of Super Bowl victories: jump from the college ranks to the NFL and win big.

It's a tough assignment, but NFL 2013 is a different world.

If you need further proof that the read-option offense has the NFL's attention, consider Packers coach Mike McCarthy's spring break trip. Instead of Cancun, he and the Green Bay staff headed to College Station to watch pal Kevin Sumlin put Texas A&M through spring practice and learn a little bit about how to stop the attack (and maybe get a look at Johnny Football for future reference). It used to be that NFL teams would welcome college coaches to their training camps to see how the pros did it. Now, folks like McCarthy are trying to get an idea of how to stop an attack that has previously been anathema to the NFL.

This was serious business, especially after what San Francisco did to the Packers in the playoffs. In the Niners' 45–31 win, quarterback Colin Kaepernick rushed for 181 yards and threw for 263 more. One TD came on a 56-yard jaunt that fooled every Packer, past or present, from Clay Matthews to Vince Lombardi's ghost. Using the read-option, the Niners rushed for 323 yards. At the time of the visit, McCarthy said, "Definitely, there's a lot of conversation about the read-option — rightfully so."

No doubt, McCarthy saw also what New England coach Bill Belichick learned from the

time Kelly spent with the Patriots during last offseason. The Pats have always been a productive offense, but thanks to the tips for high-speed play offered by the then-Oregon coach, they entered new waters in 2012. New England led the NFL in total plays, total points, yards per game, first downs and third down conversion percentage. Obviously, Kelly wasn't the sole reason New England was so productive, but on a team without any real stars, beyond Brady and slot receiver Wes Welker, it was an impressive performance.

McCarthy was no doubt in search of help in both areas at A&M, along with a look at how the Aggies defend everything that teams do down in the SEC.

"They're looking for concepts," Sumlin says. "It's a different deal at the NFL level; it's something these guys aren't used to seeing. (Seattle's) Russell Wilson has been successful with it. Colin Kaepernick has been successful. There are four or five other quarterbacks that are suc-

cessful with it. They're putting power-blocking schemes with it, and it becomes confusing.

"People are teaching it like it's option football. It's different."

Not for Cincinnati's Zimmer. When he was an assistant at Missouri in 1979 and '80, Oklahoma was piling up the points and yards with the wishbone, and other Big Eight schools were running the option. He spent five years (1989-93) as defensive coordinator at Washington State and had to deal with Oregon State's version of the option. His father, Bill, even ran it as a high school coach. "It's a lot of fun," Zimmer says.

In the Bengals' last game of the 2012 regular season, against Baltimore, the Ravens rested their starters for most of the game. That meant slippery backup Tyrod Taylor earned significant playing time and ran some option. "I'm on the sideline, saying, 'Here we go; let's have some fun,'" Zimmer says. Although Taylor ran nine times for 65 yards, the Bengals still won the game. In Week 3 of the season, the Bengals won a wild one, 38–31, over Griffin and the Redskins. During that game, the Skins added a new concept to their read-option game. Receiver Brandon Banks became a pitch man and actually carried the ball three times for 29 yards. "You just have to adjust," Zimmer says.

The read-option works so well because the quarterback is usually not accounted for in NFL running attacks. Once he becomes a threat, there is one extra man to defend, and players who don't adhere closely to their assignments can put their teams at risk. "They've added an extra gap for the defense to defend," Zimmer says.

The way it works in its simplest form is that after the snap — almost exclusively from the shotgun or Pistol formation — the quarterback fakes to the back, who is crossing in front of him, and reads the backside end. If the end comes down hard, toward the back, the QB pulls the ball out and keeps it. If the end stays home, the QB hands it off, and the back can head outside or cut back. Of course, in both situations, the quarterback can choose to pass and use the fake handoff as play-action.

Zimmer says that if defenses use sound techniques and are able to refrain from chasing either the back or QB, they can succeed. He says you might see more teams standing their ends up this season, the better to give them more flexibility of movement. He also reports that colleges are optioning the defensive tackles now, as the old wishbone teams did, so don't be surprised if NFL teams mirror that behavior.

There is one way to put the threat of the option on hold: nail the quarterback. Although the NFL is doing everything it can to protect the signal-callers, once they get into the open field, they are running backs, and if they don't slide or get out of bounds, they are inviting targets for defenders tired of chasing them.

"Teams are trying to use the athletic ability of the quarterbacks more, and they can create big plays, especially if you're not disciplined on defense," Zimmer says. "But the more hits the quarterbacks take, the more teams have to think, 'Do we really want to do this?' Maybe they feel like we can't hit them. I think we can."

"Teams are trying to use the athletic ability of the quarterbacks more, and they can create big plays, especially if you're not disciplined on defense. But the more hits the quarterbacks take, the more teams have to think, 'Do we really want to do this?'"

– Cincinnati defensive coordinator Mike Zimmer

There is plenty of speculation about whether the latest college duo can handle the NFL life. Because he was an assistant in the league and played two seasons, for the Jets and Saints, Marrone laughs at the idea that he won't know how to behave on a professional sideline, in a meeting room or during practice.

"This is the highest level," he says. "I've been a player in this league, and I've coached in this league. Again, I have a good insight to the NFL." He understands that things must be done differently, and that gives him an advantage over a pure college man like Kelly.

But leadership often translates to several different climates, and Kelly has given no indication that he lacks the confidence to improve the Eagles' status. His advantage over other pure college coaches is the offensive system he brings and the league's recent embrace of tactics that have thrived a level below the NFL. There is always the chance the zone-read is a fad, like the Wildcat and other briefly popular innovations throughout NFL history, but one thing that appears to be here for a while is high-tempo offense, which puts opponents at a disadvantage in terms of substituting and conditioning. Of course, all it would take would be an edict by the league's rules committee to change things, but for now, Kelly's dragster approach is most definitely in vogue.

"This game, everybody's always trying to get an advantage," he says. "It's (about) the next great thing, so to speak. I'm not saying this is the next great thing, but if you can force the pace in the game…"

The implication is clear. Those who control tempo control the outcome. Kelly believes the Eagles can do that. As for the league and its growing infatuation with what's happening on campus, it will be interesting to see whether this is all a passing craze or if it will become a permanent facet of the game. Whatever the case, history is being made by the reversal of the flow. Ideas and concepts that would have been rejected at the NFL level a decade ago are now flourishing. Baltimore may have won the Super Bowl with its traditional approach, but the 49ers were a play away from the Lombardi Trophy with the New Way. The new guys are stepping up at a particularly opportune time. Can they take advantage?

"Whatever you do, you have to do it well," Carroll says. "That's part of the package of acceptance at this level. Coming from SC and all we did there, that was part of the acceptance. You want them to listen and act on your message. They will do that if you are successful."

And fast. Which just so happens to be Kelly's forte.

AP Photo/Michael Keating

DOGGIE DENTURES

Because brushing is just no fun.

Or, there's DENTASTIX® Fresh.

The treat that's clinically proven to reduce up to 80% of tartar build-up* now has green tea and eucalyptus to help freshen breath. Take that, tartar. And you too, dog breath!

DentureYourDog.com

*Average reduction was 47%. ®/™ Trademarks © Mars, Incorporated 2012. US Patent D492,836.

COACHING CAROUSEL

Eight NFL teams will be under new leadership in 2013

by Nathan Rush

Arizona Cardinals: **BRUCE ARIANS**

Previous Job: Offensive coordinator/interim head coach, Indianapolis Colts

Pros: Arians was named AP Coach of the Year after posting a 9–3 record as the interim head coach of the Colts last season, taking charge while Chuck Pagano recovered from leukemia. Prior to that, Arians won two Super Bowls with the Pittsburgh Steelers as a receivers coach and offensive coordinator, served as offensive coordinator on the only playoff team in the history of the expansion Cleveland Browns and was Peyton Manning's first quarterbacks coach in Indianapolis.

Cons: Arians' health has been an issue. The 60-year-old survived prostate cancer in 2007 and also missed the Colts' Wild Card playoff game against the Baltimore Ravens last season after being hospitalized due to a suspected inner-ear infection.

Final Analysis: Arians is a respected offensive mind credited with aiding the development of Andrew Luck, Ben Roethlisberger and Manning, and he did a great job as the interim boss last year in Indy. Another plus: He owns more Kangol hats than anyone not named Samuel L. Jackson. Stylish hire.

Cleveland Browns: **ROB CHUDZINSKI**

Previous Job: Offensive coordinator, Carolina Panthers

Pros: The former Miami Hurricanes tight end won two national championships as a player (1987, '89) and another as the Canes' offensive coordinator (2001). This is the third stop in Cleveland for Coach "Chud," whose first NFL gig was as the Browns' tight end coach (2004) before leaving only to return as Cleveland's offensive coordinator (2007-08). In 2007, Chudzinski's offense set post-1999 expansion franchise records for total yards, passing yards and points scored.

Buffalo Bills: **DOUG MARRONE**

Previous Job: Head coach, Syracuse University

Pros: The New Orleans Saints' offensive coordinator over the first three seasons of the Drew Brees era, Marrone tallied a 25–25 record in four seasons at Syracuse, a program that totaled only 10 wins over the four years prior to Marrone's arrival.

Cons: Buffalo has not made the playoffs since 1999, when a Wade Phillips-led Bills squad was KO'd by the Tennessee Titans' controversial "Music City Miracle." Owner Ralph Wilson has hired and fired four coaches since. Marrone is fighting an uphill battle in Buffalo (and sometimes Toronto).

Final Analysis: The 48-year-old Marrone is a native New Yorker who has a proven track record as an NFL coordinator and college head coach. All signs point to this being a solid hire for a team still looking for the next Marv Levy.

Chicago Bears: **MARC TRESTMAN**

Previous Job: Head coach, Montreal Alouettes

Pros: Trestman is a two-time Grey Cup championship-winning coach in the Canadian Football League as well as the 2009 CFL Coach of the Year. Prior to his success north of the border, the 57-year-old was an NFL position coach and/or offensive coordinator from 1985-2004, most notably coordinating the league's No. 1 offense and MVP quarterback Rich Gannon for the AFC champion Oakland Raiders in 2002.

Cons: Trestman has been away from the NFL for nearly a decade and playing by Canadian rules — where the field is 110 yards long (not the NFL's 100 yards) and 65 yards wide (not 53.5), there are 12 starters (not 11) on each side of the ball and a team has three downs (not four) to advance the ball 10 yards for a first down.

Final Analysis: Hopefully Trestman's jump from the CFL to the NFL doesn't include any replacement-referee-style rule confusion. He has big shoes to fill, following in the footsteps of Lovie Smith, who was fired despite an 81–63 record, Coach of the Year award and Super Bowl XLI runner-up effort over nine seasons.

Cons: This is the first head coaching job on any level for Chudzinski, a 45-year-old who will attempt to avoid the fate of Pat Shurmur – who was fired after posting a 9–23 record over two seasons in Cleveland.

Final Analysis: Not only has Chudzinski never been a head coach in the NFL, he had never interviewed for the top spot until winning over the Browns' brass, a group that includes an owner being investigated by the FBI and IRS, and a general manager (Mike Lombardi) whose last job was as an analyst on NFL Network. Coach Chud could be a dud.

Arians: AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin; Chudzinski: AP Photo/Tony Dejak; Kelly: AP Photo/Matt Rourke

Jacksonville Jaguars: **GUS BRADLEY**

Previous Job: Defensive coordinator, Seattle Seahawks

Pros: Bradley's meteoric rise is impressive. The former defensive coordinator at Division II North Dakota State spent three seasons under Monte Kiffin as the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' linebackers coach and four seasons as the Seahawks' defensive coordinator (under both Pete Carroll and Jim L. Mora) before becoming the Jags' top cat.

Cons: Tom Coughlin and Jack Del Rio were the only head coaches in Jacksonville for the franchise's first 16 seasons. Bradley, however, will be the fourth different man wearing the main headset in the past three years. Bradley's inexperience coupled with the instability of the Jaguars' organization — not to mention the apathy of the fan base — make this one of the least desirable jobs in the league.

Final Analysis: The 47-year-old Bradley was hand-picked by first-year general manager Dave Caldwell. And expectations can't get much lower following the one-and-done tenure of Mike Mularkey, who was fired after a miserable 2–14 campaign.

Kansas City Chiefs: **ANDY REID**

Previous Job: Head coach, Philadelphia Eagles

Pros: One of the most respected coaches in the NFL, Reid had a 130–93–1 record with nine trips to the playoffs — including five NFC Championship Game appearances and a runner-up finish in Super Bowl XXXIX — in 14 seasons as the Eagles' head coach. Reid's teams won at least one playoff game in seven of his nine trips to the postseason.

Cons: Not much to dislike, unless, of course, you're not a fan of mustaches, loud Hawaiian shirts or former punt, pass and kick contests (go ahead and Google Andy Reid punt, pass and kick — it's worth it.)

Final Analysis: Reid was the longest-tenured coach in the NFL at the time of his firing in Philadelphia. Although his methodology had grown stale with the Eagles, Reid's track record of success is undeniable. The Chiefs haven't been to an AFC title game since 1993, when Joe Montana, Marcus Allen and Derrick Thomas led the way. That should change with Reid in charge in K.C.

Philadelphia Eagles: **CHIP KELLY**

Previous Job: Head coach, University of Oregon

Pros: One of the most innovative coaches in all of football, Kelly was the hottest name in coaching each of the past two offseasons – flirting with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers last year before accepting the job in Philadelphia this year. Kelly posted a 46–7 overall record with a 33–3 Pac-12 mark and four BCS bowl appearances (including a BCS national title game trip in 2010) in four seasons as Oregon's head coach.

Cons: Kelly is only seven years removed from being the offensive coordinator at FCS also-ran New Hampshire. Plus, he carries with him the stench of Steve Spurrier and other failed offensive gurus whose systems lit up college scoreboards before falling flat at the next level. As a rule of thumb, the college coaches who have had success in the NFL (Jim Harbaugh, Pete Carroll, etc.) have had extensive prior NFL experience. Kelly has zero games under his belt at the NFL level.

Final Analysis: The highly successful hurry-up spread-option philosophy of Kelly could either revolutionize the way NFL offenses operate or see its wings clipped by big-league coordinators and personnel. Either way, Kelly is the type of flashy hire Philly needed after being droned to sleep by the predictability of Andy Reid's routine.

San Diego Chargers: **MIKE McCOY**

Previous Job: Offensive coordinator, Denver Broncos

Pros: From Tim Tebow to Peyton Manning, McCoy has shown the coaching acumen and adaptability to morph his offense to the strengths of his roster. The Broncos led the league in rushing with a Tebow-oriented attack in 2011 before posting the third-most touchdown passes with Manning at the helm last season. Both teams advanced to the playoffs with decidedly different offenses.

Cons: After being hired by the Panthers' George Seifert in 2000, McCoy was retained by John Fox in 2002 and has been on Fox's staff — in both Carolina and Denver — for nine of his 13 years as a coach in the NFL. McCoy's four-season foray away from the Fox nest included a 1–15 year under Seifert in 2001 and the two-year Josh McDaniels debacle with the Broncos in 2009-10.

Final Analysis: At 41, McCoy is the second-youngest coach in the league and a breath of fresh air for a Chargers fan base that desperately wanted to part ways with Norv Turner, who had worn out his welcome after six underwhelming seasons in San Diego.

EXTRA POINTS

by Bruce Herman

UPON FURTHER REVIEW

The Great Replacement Referee Controversy of 2012 reached critical mass in Week 3. The pinch-zebras gift-wrapped a win to Seattle over Green Bay by failing to correctly determine possession on the final play, conferred the 49ers five second-half timeouts in the form of two extra replay challenges, and one of them got manhandled by an apoplectic (and ultimately 50 Large lighter) Bill Belichick. Elsewhere that day, though, the officials played key roles in perhaps the most exciting 20 minutes of the season – three concurrent overtimes that hinged on their calls. In each case, they got things right. More or less.

The first to be decided was in New Orleans, where the Chiefs had come back from a 24-6 deficit to position themselves for an OT stunner. Near midfield, however, Shaun Draughn dropped the ball while being tackled. The Saints' Roman Harper scooped it up and scampered 57 yards for the winning touchdown. Game over. But wait! The replay assistant challenged the fumble ruling, and the call was, correctly, reversed. Nine plays hence, Ryan Succop booted his sixth field goal of the day for a 27-24 K.C. win.

Moments later, the Jets, given life by Dan Carpenter's wide-left 3-point try in Miami, had advanced to the Dolphins' 15. Out trotted kicker Nick Folk for the win. Blocked. Play on. But wait! The refs ruled accurately that, milliseconds before the snap, K.C. coach Joe Philbin had a requested a timeout. Folk got a do-over, and this time was true for the 23-20 New York victory.

Meanwhile in Tennessee, the Titans had pulled ahead on an OT field goal. The Lions marched 71 yards to the 7-yard line in response, but whereas Romeo Crennel and Rex Ryan had opted to kick on third down, Jim Schwartz got greedy. Rather than go for a chip-shot field goal on 4th-and-inches to re-knot the score, he sent Shaun Hill up the gut. The quarterback was stopped in his tracks. Game over. But wait! The replay assistant challenged the spot, and the call was upheld.

Vindication for the week's gaffes? Well, there was the little matter of the Titans being granted 12 extra yards on a flubbed penalty mark-off during their final drive. Nobody's perfect.

Indiscretionary Income

Hey, Vince Young, what happened to that $25 million or so in walkin'-around money (including endorsements, but after taxes — give or take the high-end Vince Young Steakhouse in Austin, Texas) you made in your star-crossed career?

The notorious quarterback bust sued his former agent and a financial planner for $5.5 mil of it. The rest went to Vince's favorite "charities." Sample news reports of his fiscal liberality include: regular tabs in the thousands of dollars at T.G.I. Friday's, five grand a week at the Cheesecake Factory during his rookie season, a taste for $600-per-shot cognac, and that time in 2007 he purchased 120 of the 130 seats on a commercial flight so he could have some privacy.

So is his current attorney concerned he might get stiffed? "I would just say that Vince needs a job," states Trey Dolezal.

Young: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Referees: Otto Greule Jr/Getty Images
Bennett: Athlon Sports

Save A Life, Slam a Sammie

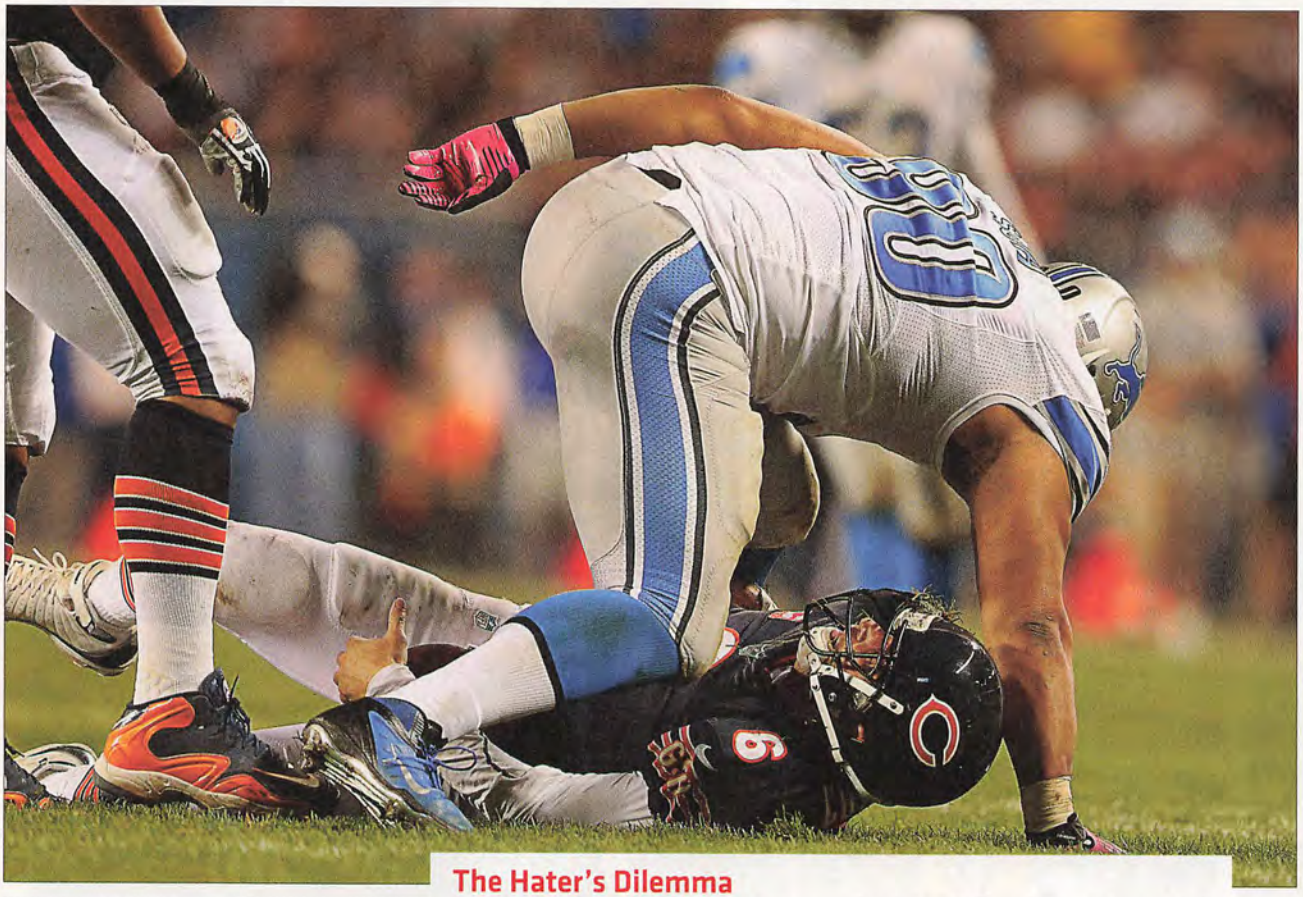
Martellus Bennett's biggest catch of the year came off the field.

The quirky tight end was exiting the tunnel at Giants Stadium after a beatdown of the Packers on Nov. 25 when he saw a man darting toward the railing above. Things dissolved into slow motion. The young boy who stood between the fan and a precipitous fall suddenly ducked, and the man toppled. Bennett, however, broke his 15-foot descent with his fourth grab of the evening.

"Naturally, I just wanted to step back, but I did the righteous thing and I stepped up," he mused. "I caught him; I saved his life. I tapped into my inner superhero, which I do have. I'm usually a ninja, but my Spidey-senses told me he was going to take a fall, so I saved his life. He owes me his first-born or something. Actually, I don't want that. Maybe a sandwich."

We Don't Serve Your Kind 'Round Here

Brother Jimmy's BBQ joint in Miami serves lots of pulled pork. On Sundays, they serve all the ribs you can eat and all the tap beer you can drink in the span of two hours for $25.95. They serve candied yams with walnuts, and they even serve frickles (fried pickles). But they don't serve Roger Goodell. Outside and in, the place is plastered with posters of the NFL Commissioner labeled with the words "DO NOT SERVE THIS MAN." That would be because two players he suspended in 2012, Jonathan Vilma and D.J. Williams, are co-owners.



The Hater's Dilemma

In the Monday Night Football game of Oct. 22, Ndamukong Suh avoided suspension but was roundly criticized (again) for a violent hit on which he grabbed Jay Cutler's jersey, got his knee all up in the quarterback's ribs and whipped him to the ground – knocking him out of the game temporarily. The next day, Forbes released its fan poll in which Suh and Cutler ranked one-two on the list of the NFL's least-liked players.

THEY SAID IT

"People say, 'You ruined my fantasy week.' Then I say, 'You suck as an owner then.'"

– Arian Foster

Get Me a Rewrite!

Prior to the 2012 season, two of the most respected football journalists around went out on a limb. Four months later they were picking the splinters out of their butts.

Hub Arkush, publisher/editor of *Pro Football Weekly*, and Peter King, *Sports Illustrated's* god of the gridiron, both were smitten in September by the Chiefs. The former picked them to win the AFC Championship; the latter had them going 10–6 and prevailing in a Wild Card matchup with Buffalo — a team Arkush slotted second in its division. To their credit, neither scribe ducked accountability when those two teams wound up with eight victories between them. King admitted that he overestimated K.C. quarterback Matt Cassel and Buffalo's $100 million free agent Mario Williams. Arkush's mea culpa: "Silly me."

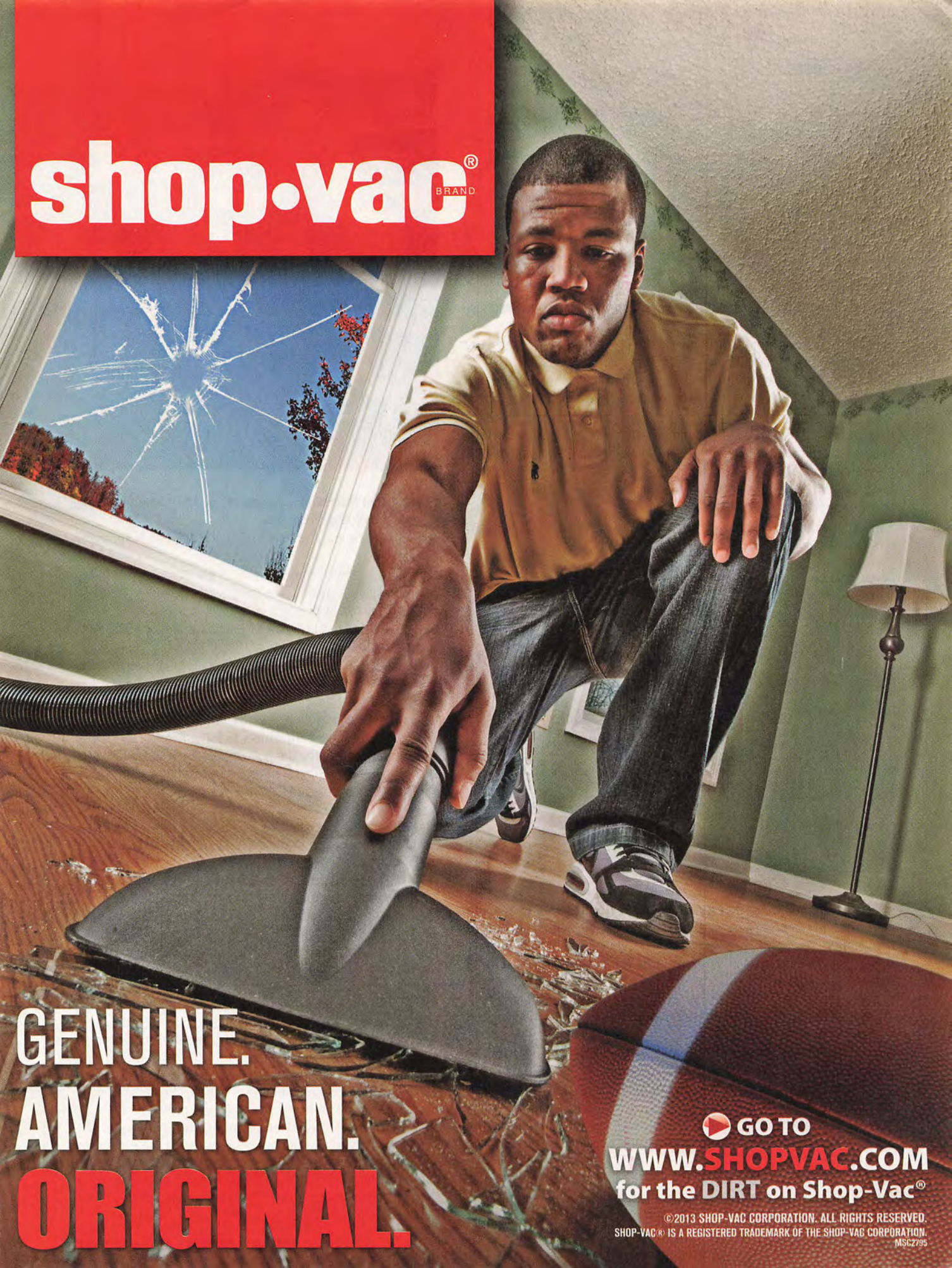
Yule-ish But Foolish

The Detroit Lions' 2013 wall calendar, published just in time to stuff stockings last holiday season, has a lot of pretty pictures. Problem is, some would have been just as appropriate on a post office wall.

The cover features Titus Young, who essentially was kicked off the team in November for gross insubordination and general petulance. (At the time, he was scheduled to have knee surgery "unless," as coach Jim Schwartz qualified, "he doesn't show up for it.")

Opening up to "Mr. January," we find Aaron Berry, who had been released in July after being arrested for DUI and battery. Also pictured are Jahvid Best (who missed the entire season with a concussion) and Nate Burleson (out more than half the year and dubious to make the team in 2013).

Suh/Cutler: Leon Halip/Getty Images; Foster: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports



©2013 SHOP-VAC CORPORATION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
SHOP-VAC® IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF THE SHOP-VAC CORPORATION.
MSC2795

CALENDAR OF THE WEIRD

Sept. 5 For the first time since 1948, the NFL season opens on a Wednesday.

Sept. 9 After scoring one touchdown in their four preseason games, the Jets hang 48 points on Buffalo – a franchise record for an opener.

Sept. 5-10 71.5 percent of the scrimmage yards are accumulated through the air and 791 points are scored – both the most ever in a Week 1.

Sept. 13 The Packers crush the Bears, becoming the first team in a decade to record at least seven sacks and four interceptions in the same game.

Sept. 16 Despite committing nine turnovers in their two games, the Eagles remain undefeated.

Sept. 28 The Texans list 20 players on their official injury report – 19 of them "probable."

Sept. 30 Oakland's Shane Lechler booms a 2-yard punt but still averages 49.4 on the day.

Sept. 30 Jaguars linebacker Kyle Bosworth, running free to the end zone after intercepting a pass, fumbles (and loses it) with no tackler in the vicinity.

Oct. 4 For the first time in 93 games, the Rams take their postgame showers as a better-than-.500 team.

Oct. 5 Upon hearing the gruesome details of Danny Amendola's dislocated clavicle, Rams COO Kevin Demoff faints during a staff meeting and is hospitalized.

Oct. 7 The Bills become the first team since the 1950 New York Yanks to surrender at least 550 yards in successive games.

Oct. 8 Tim Tebow (as providence would have it) plays in the 666th "Monday Night Football" game.

Oct. 21 According to the Elias Sports Bureau, the Buccaneers are the 71st team to pile up 500 yards and not commit a turnover – but only the third to lose.

Oct. 28 The Eagles' 13-game winning streak following a bye week ends.

Oct. 28 Fans in Dallas boo Jerry Jones and Jason Garrett during their video board messages about breast cancer awareness.

Oct. 28 Ben Roethlisberger moves to 14-0 when starting against a rookie quarterback.

Oct. 28 Quarterback Robert Griffin III is flagged for pass interference.

Oct. 29 Alex Smith completes 18 of his 19 passes to 10 different receivers against Arizona, with his only "miss" a dropped ball by a wide-open Delanie Walker.

Oct. 30 Ravens tackle Bryant McKinnie is sued for a $375,000 tab he ran up at a strip club.

Oct. 31 Jim Harbaugh disguises himself as John Harbaugh for Halloween.

Nov. 4 With eight minutes to go in the first half, the Jaguars have run nine plays for eight yards against the Lions.

Nov. 4 Footballguys.com notices that the Titans – 51-20 losers to the Bears – tally the fewest points possible while still scoring in every possible manner (i.e., a touchdown, field goal, safety, two-point conversion and PAT).

Nov. 4 According to Elias, of the last five games in which a team has scored at least 15 points all on field goals, the Ravens have been involved in each – four as the defender, one as the aggressor.

Nov. 11 Quarterbacks Alex Smith, Michael Vick and Jay Cutler are all knocked out of their games with concussions.

Nov. 11 The 49ers and Rams, whose all-time series ledger stood at 61-61-2, play to a tie.

Nov. 11 The Patriots mount an 11th consecutive scoring drive in their two games against Buffalo this year.

Nov. 11 The Raiders score in the final two minutes of the first half for the ninth time in nine games.

Nov. 12 Although the Chiefs lose to Pittsburgh in OT, they lead a game during regulation for the first time – the longest streak of futility to open a season since the 1929 Buffalo Bisons.

Nov. 12 As per ColdHardFootballFacts.com, there are zero games with either a fourth-quarter comeback or a game-winning drive for the first time since Week 13 of 1973.

Nov. 18 Detroit's Titus Young intentionally lines up in the wrong spot multiple times in a narrow loss to the Packers in a pattern of insubordination that gets him suspended.

Nov. 18 The St. Louis defense fails to force a turnover for a fifth straight game, matching the NFL's longest slump since 1950.

Roethlisberger: AP Photo/Don Wright; Bosworth: AP Photo/John Raoux; McElroy: AP Photo/Bill Kostroun; Young: Mark Langello

Nov. 18 Opposing receivers (Andre Johnson, 273; Justin Blackmon, 236) chalk up more than 200 yards apiece in the same game for the first time in history.

Nov. 18 Julian Edelman is the first player since Freddie Solomon in 1976 to score on a punt return and a pass reception, as well as break a rush of at least 40 yards, in the same game.

Nov. 25 The 2-8 Browns cancel their promotional giveaway and eat the manufacturing expense after realizing that 70,000 fans waving white flags doesn't send the best message.

Nov. 25 The Seahawks-Dolphins game in Miami is delayed when the sprinklers go off on the field in the middle of the third quarter.

Nov. 29 For the first time in 78 games, the Falcons' Roddy White does not catch a pass in the first half.

Dec. 2 Detroit loses at home for the third week in a row – each time despite holding a lead in the final two minutes of the fourth quarter.

Dec. 2 After losing their first 12 coin tosses of the season, the Panthers call "heads" based on a fan vote they conducted and make it 13 in a row.

Dec. 2 Kansas City visits the end zone on its opening drive for the first time in 29 games.

Dec. 2 Inside of three minutes remaining in a loss to Green Bay, the Vikings get their first catch of the day from a wide receiver.

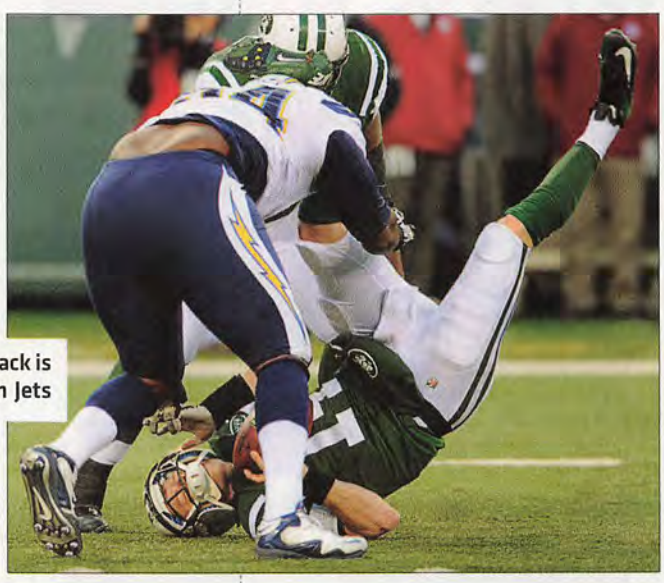
Dec. 2 Dan Marino, narrating the highlights for CBS, refers to Coby Fleener as "Fleenery," Ryan Lindley as "Leyland" and Rashad Jennings as "Rashard."

Dec. 8 Reggie Wayne's Bentley is taken for a joy ride by a hotel valet who, after being apprehended, tells police he was the receiver's "cousin by marriage."

Dec. 13 Marvin McNutt of the Eagles blocks his own team's punt.

Dec. 23 For the first time in 31 games, the Rams' Sam Bradford is not sacked, ending the NFL's longest streak.

Dec. 23 For the second time since the merger, a quarterback is sacked 11 times in his initial NFL start – both of them Jets (David Norrie and Greg McElroy).



Dec. 26 The Chiefs send three more players (five) to the Pro Bowl than they have victories. (They ended up with six Pro Bowlers, due to a late replacement.)

Dec. 26 Packers center Jeff Saturday is named to the Pro Bowl just days after losing his starting job due to ineffectiveness.

Dec. 30 Return man Trindon Holliday finishes the season undefeated – 11-0 as a Bronco after being released by the 5-0 Texans.

Jan. 5 Houston linebacker Cameron Collins makes his NFL debut in a playoff game.

Jan. 6 The Redskins outgain Seattle 129 yards to nine in the first quarter of their Wild Card pairing, then fail to run another play in Seahawks territory in their 24-14 loss.

Jan. 6 The Colts make 87 snaps for 419 yards against Baltimore, yet fail to reach the end zone, in their 24-9 Wild Card demise.

Jan. 12 Baltimore outlasts Denver in a divisional playoff, 38-35 in double overtime, that had been tied 7-7, 14-14, 21-21, 28-28 and 35-35.

Jan. 12 Peyton Manning is now the vanquished quarterback on the only two teams to have lost a postseason game they led by seven or more points with fewer than 35 seconds remaining in regulation – the 2000 Colts and 2012 Broncos.

Jan. 13 Shane Vereen, who scored four TDs for the Pats in the regular season, becomes just the third player ever with two receiving and one rushing in the same playoff game.

Hey, Where's the Dugout?

Brandon Weeden may not have been the valedictorian, but he was solid enough to be included in the class picture of the NFL's extraordinary group of 2012 rookie quarterbacks. This despite getting lost on the first day of school. Just prior to his pro debut, the Browns field general somehow got himself trapped under a ginormous American flag that had been unfurled for the pregame festivities. Things only deteriorated for Weeden when the game started. He completed three of the nine passes he tossed more than 10 yards downfield — all to the Eagles. There was, however, a statistical silver lining to the former minor league pitcher's embarrassing entrée: His passer rating (5.1) was higher than his career ERA (5.02).

THEY SAID IT

"Like I said I never been selfish but if I'm not going to get the football i don't want to play anymore"

– Tweet from (former) Lions receiver Titus Young.

THEY SAID IT

"Y'all better start winning some games. I've been praying, but y'all got to work a little bit harder."

— An elderly woman admonishing Dexter McCluster, who was delivering meals to low-income residents as part of the Chiefs' Thanksgiving Day outreach program.

Wait For It, Wait For It...

You might want to keep Chris Johnson on your fantasy pine until Week 4. In 2011, the one-time 2,000-yard man rushed 46 times for 98 yards (2.1 yards per carry) in his first three games, then busted out a 101-yard effort. He started even more horrifically last year — 33 totes for 45 yards (1.4 yards per carry) until mustering 141 in the fourth contest.

Can't Win for Losing

If we learned anything during Week 6 last season, it was that there are just as many creative ways to lose a football game as there are to win one. For example, you can:

» Hold your opponent's quarterback without a completion longer than 12 yards ... which the Colts did in getting blown out by the Jets, 35–9.

» Rush for 227 yards – the most your opponent has allowed in 15 years ... which the Cowboys did while being defeated by Baltimore.

» Outgain your adversary, 462 yards to 192, and average 6.0 yards per carry against the NFL's No. 1 rushing defense ... which the Rams did in a 17–14 loss to the Dolphins.

» Assume a 10-point lead with 5:18 to play ... which the Eagles did against the Lions before blowing their seventh fourth-quarter advantage in their past 22 outings.

» Play a winless team and force it into its most three-and-outs in a decade (seven) ... as the Bengals did while managing to give up 34 points in a defeat to the Browns.

» Tie a game with 40 seconds to go ... which the Raiders did before allowing the Falcons to run seven more plays in their drive to the decisive field goal.

» Kick a franchise-record 61-yard field goal with 1:09 remaining to tie the game, but miss a 38-yarder to win it as time expires ... as the Cardinals' Jay Feely did in their overtime loss to Buffalo.

» Hold a 13-point lead inside eight minutes in a game in which you run 30 more plays than your opponents, and pile up 179 more yards than they'd allowed in any other contest to date ... as New England did in bowing to Seattle.

» Flounce into the locker room at halftime with a 24–0 advantage ... as the Chargers did before collapsing to a 35–24 defeat at the hands of the Broncos.

On the Other Hand

» Kevin Kolb was sacked eight times and intercepted twice (Sept. 30).

» Sam Bradford gained 25 yards on his first 16 passes, misfiring on 12 in a row – including an interception in the end zone – at one point (Oct. 4).

» Christian Ponder netted 58 yards (just four in the second half) and threw a pair of picks on his 17 tosses (Oct. 21).

» Matt Schaub was picked two times while throwing for 95 yards (Nov. 11).

» Matt Ryan endured five interceptions (four within 10 yards of the line of scrimmage), and had no scoring passes (Nov. 18).

» Tony Romo was sacked seven times and lost a fumble (Nov. 18).

» Mark Sanchez flung three interceptions, with no TDs, in a 97-yard stinker that computed to a 21.4 passer rating (Dec. 2)

What do these quarterbacks have in common? They all won.

Bengals/Browns: AP Photo/Tony Dejak; Johnson: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

FanDuel

SPECIAL OFFER FOR ATHLON READERS

"Fantasy Football is Here and I Can't Wait. I've Won $492,692 Playing Daily Fantasy Sports. How Much Could You Win?"

Chris Prince

Discover a whole new way of playing fantasy football that lasts just ONE DAY, no commitments and immediate cash payouts.

This is Chris Prince. He's Beermakersfan on FanDuel - doesn't he look happy?
This 35 year old from Detroit has won $492,692 playing daily fantasy sports contests on FanDuel.

A Brand New Way to Play Fantasy Football
FanDuel is the hottest thing in fantasy football. You can pick a new team and win cash any week of the season. Go up against other FanDuellers or even your buddies - for bragging rights and immediate cash payouts.

Over $90 Million in Cash Payouts
FanDuel will payout over $90 million dollars in cash prizes over this football season! Yes, that's well over $4 million dollars each and every week! That's a large figure and you might be skeptical, but don't be. Our cash prize pool can be this large because we literally have hundreds of thousands of players today and thousands more joining right now!

How is this Different from Season Long Fantasy Football?

- Salary cap leagues that last one day
- Huge variety of contest types
- Instant daily cash payouts
- Don't rely only on your buddies - play against other FanDuellers
- Play for free or for real money - use PayPal or your credit card
- No subscription fees or commitments

Start Playing Today for Free
Go to www.fanduel.com/football and type in your exclusive promo code to get $5 absolutely FREE! Play from $1 up to $500!

SPECIAL OFFER

FREE $5

PLAY ON US FOR FREE

Use promocode

ATHLONPRO2013

when you join at

www.fanduel.com/football

No strings attached • Valid for first 5,000 readers
Valid until 10/31/13

As seen in

THE NEW YORK TIMES • THE WALL STREET JOURNAL • FOX SPORTS • FORBES • SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

WINNER Mashable Sports Innovation Index 2012

WINNER FSTA Most Outstanding Fantasy Contest

Visit: www.fanduel.com/football

2003 NFL DRAFT **REVISITED**

by Rob Doster

In smash-or-trash terms, the first round of this draft was more Bay City Rollers than Beatles, producing a few hits but plenty of forgettable material. About half these guys are still drawing NFL paychecks, but only a couple will qualify for busts in Canton, while far more qualify as busts of the figurative kind. The most common adjective applied below is "serviceable" – not what you're looking for when you expend a first-round pick. But I guess "serviceable" is better than "humiliating whiff," which is what Matt Millen suffered with the second overall pick.

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

1. Cincinnati: **CARSON PALMER**, QB, USC
'03-10, Cincinnati; '11-12, Oakland; '13 Arizona
The 2002 Heisman Trophy winner at USC, Palmer has averaged 241.5 passing yards per game for his career and has thrown 189 touchdown passes in 122 career games. Those are pretty empty numbers, though, when you consider that Palmer has a career record as a starter of 54–67 and has appeared in only one playoff game. After an ugly standoff with Bengals management, Palmer was finally granted a change of scenery and traded to Oakland in October 2011. He had an 8–16 as the starter with the Raiders and was traded to Arizona in the offseason. *All-Pro Seasons: None*

Draft Nuggets

» Miami and Penn State both had four players selected in the first round. Ohio State, the defending national champion, had none. The first Buckeye chosen was safety Mike Doss, taken by Indianapolis in the second round with the 58th pick. In all, OSU had five players drafted.

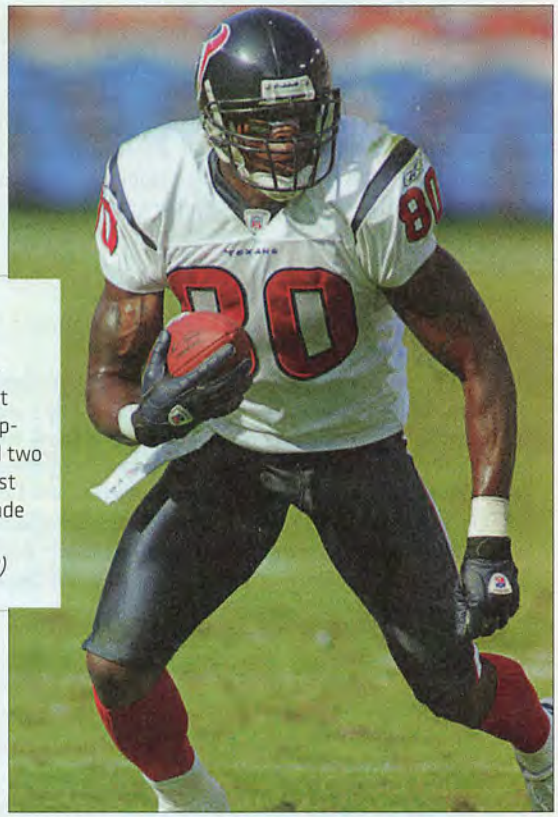
» For the draft as a whole, Florida, Miami and Tennessee led the way with eight players apiece.

» Later-round bargains: LB Lance Briggs (third round, 68th pick, seven-time Pro Bowler); TE Jason Witten (third round, 69th pick, eight-time Pro Bowler); CB Asante Samuel (fourth round, 120th pick, three-time All-Pro); WR David Tyree (sixth round, 211th pick, Super Bowl XLII hero)

» Notable undrafted free agents: TE Antonio Gates, Kent State – where he only played basketball (eight-time Pro Bowler, five-time All-Pro); QB Tony Romo, Eastern Illinois (three-time Pro Bowler); G Kris Dielman, Indiana (four-time Pro Bowler); RB Fred Jackson, Coe College (1,000-yard rusher in 2009)

2. Detroit: **CHARLES ROGERS**, WR, Michigan State
'03-05, Detroit

One of the biggest busts in NFL history, Rogers became emblematic of the failed Matt Millen era in Motown. At Michigan State, Rogers earned comparisons to Randy Moss with his unusual combination of speed and size. But drugs (specifically, marijuana and Vicodin) and injuries (two broken clavicles) derailed his career before it really began. During his last NFL season, a third failed drug test triggered a league-mandated suspension and prompted the Lions to demand that he return a portion of his signing bonus. He was released prior to the 2006 season, and 40 times that had slowed from 4.4 to 4.8 prevented him from catching on anywhere else. *All-Pro Seasons: None*



3. Houston: **ANDRE JOHNSON**, WR, Miami
'03-present, Houston

This is more like it. Johnson parlayed a stellar career at Miami into a high first-round pick, and he's done nothing in the last decade to make the Texans regret their selection. After a solid rookie season, Johnson earned his first Pro Bowl appearance in his second year in the league, and his first All-Pro season followed two years after that, when he led the NFL with 103 catches. He posted a career-best 115 catches in 2008 and a career-high 1,598 receiving yards last season. A decade into his career, Johnson is second in NFL history with 81.6 receiving yards per game, behind only six-year vet Calvin Johnson. *All-Pro Seasons: 2 (2008, 2009)*

4. N.Y. Jets, **DEWAYNE ROBERTSON**, DT, Kentucky
'03-07, N.Y. Jets; '08, Denver

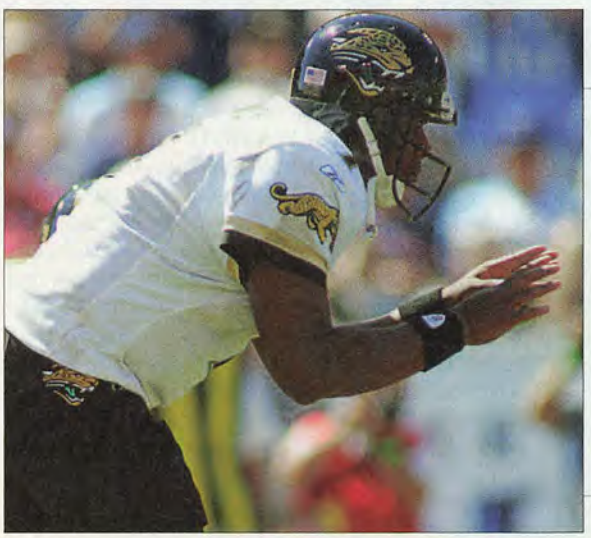
We return to the Bust Division of the 2003 Draft with Robertson, a slightly undersized defensive tackle (he stood only 6'1") who never lived up to the promise of two All-SEC seasons at Kentucky. After five mostly listless seasons, the Jets dealt Robertson to the Broncos, who released him after one forgettable season. *All-Pro Seasons: None*

5. Dallas: **TERENCE NEWMAN**, CB, Kansas State
'03-11, Dallas; '12-present, Cincinnati

After a senior season in which he grabbed five interceptions and earned the Thorpe Award as the nation's best defensive back, Newman joined America's Team and promptly produced, making 76 tackles as a rookie and tying a team record for interceptions in a game with three against the rival Redskins. During his nine-year stint in Big D, he led the Cowboys in interceptions five times, and he made two Pro Bowls (2007, 2009). After being released by the Cowboys in March 2012, Newman was picked up by Cincinnati and started 15 games for the Bengals in 2012. *All-Pro Seasons: None*

6. New Orleans: **JOHNATHAN SULLIVAN**, DT, Georgia
'03-05, New Orleans

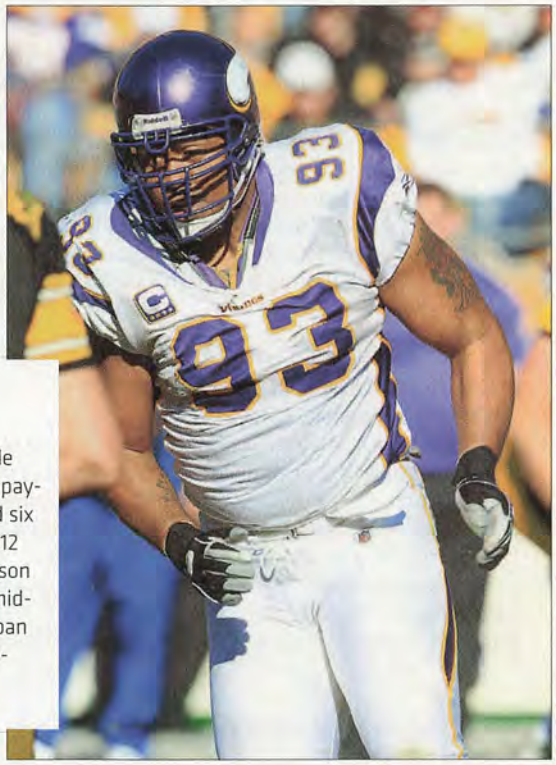
The Saints traded up to the sixth spot to draft Sullivan, who turned out to be a disappointment just as colossal as his impressive 310-pound frame. In three seasons with New Orleans, Sullivan started only 16 games and accounted for only 77 tackles and 1.5 sacks. The Saints tried to cut their losses and traded him to New England, but he failed to make the Patriots' roster. *All-Pro Seasons: None*



7. Jacksonville: **BYRON LEFTWICH**, QB, Marshall
'03-06, Jacksonville; '07, Atlanta; '08, Tampa Bay; '09-12, Pittsburgh

Leftwich entered the draft coming off back-to-back 4,000-yard passing seasons at Marshall, and his size (6'5", 245) and production made him an irresistible pick for the QB-starved Jags. He was plagued by ankle injuries, and one of those injuries, in 2006, paved the way for the emergence of David Garrard, creating a QB controversy that ultimately led to Leftwich's departure from Jacksonville with a starting record of 24-20. In the last six seasons, he's started a total of six NFL games as a backup in Atlanta, Tampa Bay and Pittsburgh. *All-Pro Seasons: None*

8. Carolina: **JORDAN GROSS**, T, Utah
'03-present, Carolina
Gross has been a reliable bookend throughout his 10-year career in Carolina; he has started all 16 games in seven of his 10 pro seasons, and a broken ankle suffered late in the 2009 season is the only significant injury of his career. The Panthers immediately plugged him into the right tackle spot, and he responded by not missing a single offensive snap as a rookie and allowing only three sacks for the NFC Champions. He has since moved to left tackle and stands as the franchise's all-time leader in career starts. *All-Pro Seasons: 1 (2008)*



9. Minnesota: **KEVIN WILLIAMS**, DT, Oklahoma State
'03-present, Minnesota
Minnesota initially had the seventh pick and was attempting to execute a trade when the team's 15 minutes elapsed. Undeterred by the gaffe, the Vikings hit paydirt with Williams. Over his first nine seasons in the league, Williams averaged six sacks and 45 tackles per season before suffering some inevitable decline in 2012 (30 tackles, two sacks). He leapt from the blocks with a remarkable rookie season that included 10.5 sacks from his defensive end spot. Williams moved to the middle and continued to produce, earning All-Pro honors five times in a six-year span from 2004-09 and garnering a spot on the NFL's All-Decade Team. *All-Pro Seasons: 5 (2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009)*

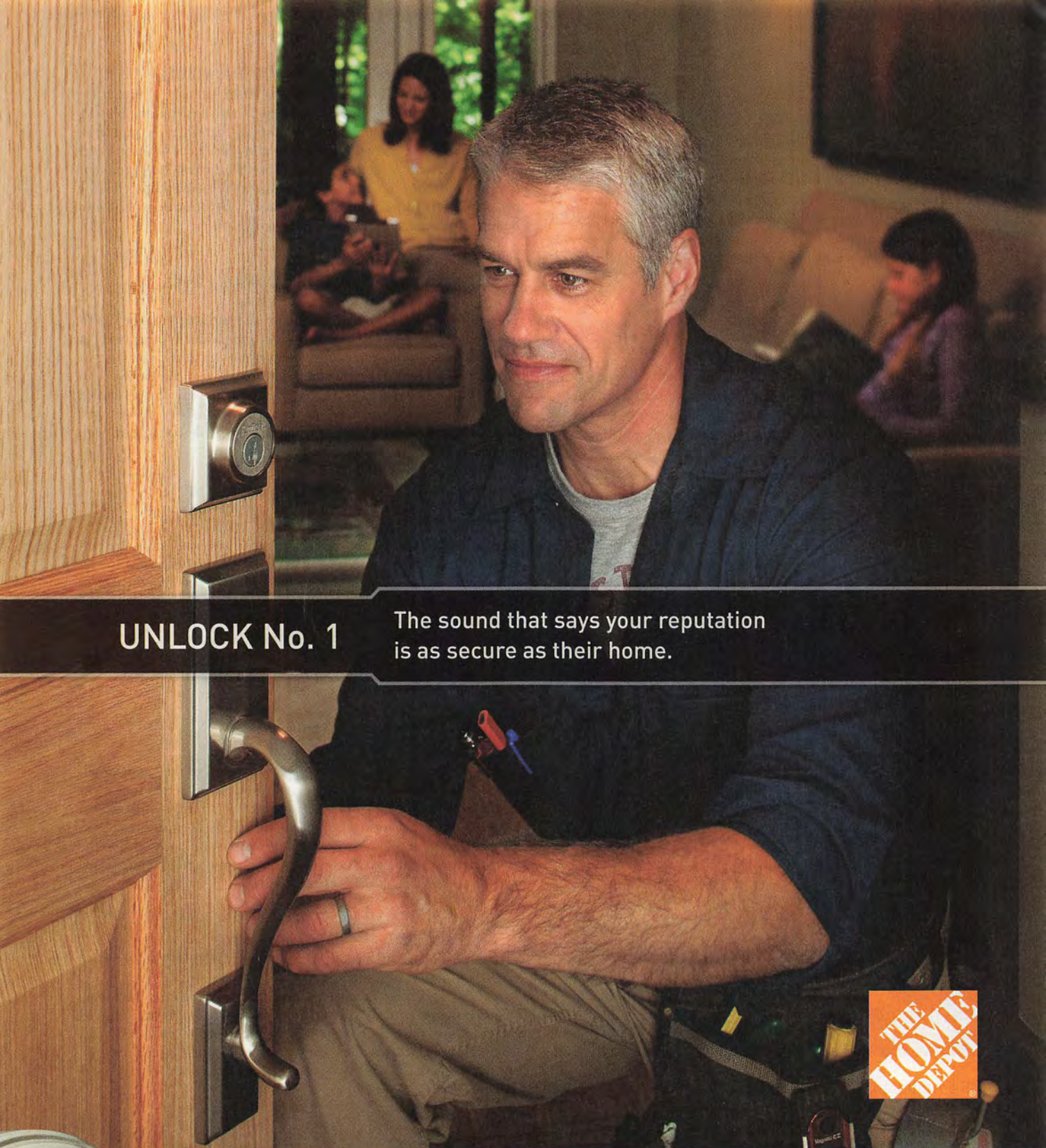
10. Baltimore: **TERRELL SUGGS**, DE/LB, Arizona State
'03-present, Baltimore
Suggs exploded onto the national scene with a 24-sack junior season at Arizona State, and despite youth and maturity issues — he was only 20 on Draft Day — he went 10th to the Ravens and fit seamlessly into their defensive scheme, posting a Ravens rookie-record 12 sacks. Suggs earned the first of five Pro Bowl appearances the following season and subsequently proved versatile enough to move comfortably between 3-4 outside linebacker and 4-3 end. Suggs now wears a Super Bowl ring following the Ravens' march to the title in 2012. *All-Pro Seasons: 1 (2011)*

11. Seattle: **MARCUS TRUFANT**, CB, Washington State
'03-12, Seattle; '13, Jacksonville
The Seahawks liked what they saw out of the Tacoma native and made him their first pick, and he's been a fan favorite in the decade since, helping the Seahawks to Super Bowl XL in his third season and earning Pro Bowl honors two years later, when he had seven interceptions. For his career, Trufant has 21 interceptions, although he's coming off a season in which he made only two starts and failed to intercept a pass for the first time in his career. He signed with the Jaguars in the offseason. *All-Pro Seasons: None*

12. St. Louis: **JIMMY KENNEDY**, DT, Penn State
'03-06, St. Louis; '07, Denver; '07, Chicago; '08, Jacksonville; '08-10, Minnesota; '11, N.Y. Giants
St. Louis spent its first-round pick on Kennedy despite the fact that the Rams already possessed several sides of interior beef, and it took him time to break into the defensive line rotation. He did start all 16 games in 2006, posting 39 tackles and a sack. Kennedy earned a Super Bowl ring in his only season in New York, when he played in only six games before a suspension for performance-enhancing drugs cost him the rest of the season. *All-Pro Seasons: None*

13. New England: **TY WARREN**, DE, Texas A&M
'03-10, New England; '11-present, Denver
Warren has been a high-character guy and solid citizen throughout his decade in the league. Bill Belichick traded up to the 13th spot to grab Warren, who earned a Super Bowl ring as a rookie backup, then muscled his way into the starting lineup the following season. After a couple years of unsung excellence, Warren was elected Patriots team captain in 2007 and then had a standout season in which he posted 53 tackles, 15 quarterback hurries, four sacks and three fumble recoveries. Injuries began to mount for Warren, and he was released and signed with Denver, where he tore his triceps early in 2012. *All-Pro Seasons: None*

Williams: Bruce Schwartzman; Warren: Mark Langello



UNLOCK No. 1

The sound that says your reputation is as secure as their home.

THE HOME DEPOT

Each time you install a lock, you put your hard-earned reputation on the line. That's why every lock we make is designed to meet only the most stringent security standards. And when it comes to innovation, that comes standard, too. From SmartKey® to SmartCode™ and more, our goal is to make sure your business is as strong as our locks. Visit Kwikset.com/Magazine, and you'll see why **THE BEST SECURITY IS SMART SECURITY**.

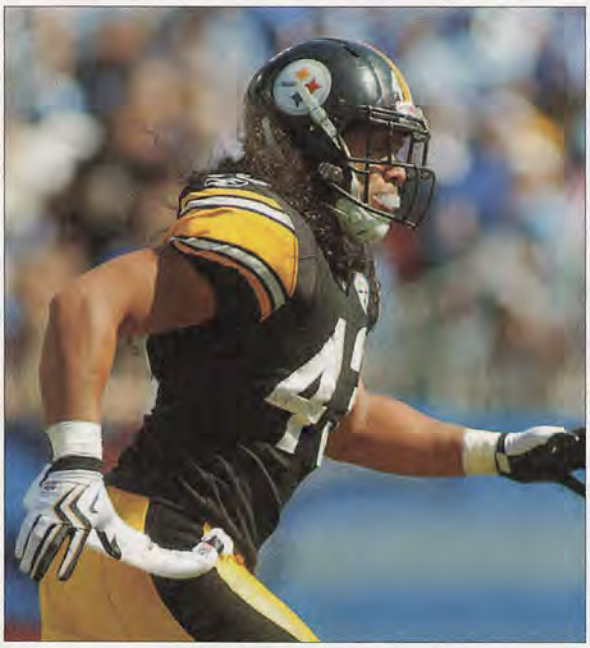
SMARTKEY
RE-KEY TECHNOLOGY

Kwikset

©Kwikset 2013. SmartCode is a trademark of Spectrum Brands. Kwikset and SmartKey are registered trademarks of Stanley Black & Decker. All Rights Reserved. 18855-KW

14. Chicago: **MICHAEL HAYNES**, DE, Penn State
'03-05, Chicago; '06, New Orleans; '07, N.Y. Jets
An army brat who went to high school for a time in Panama, Haynes earned 2002 Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year honors at Penn State. Although he seemed a perfect fit for the Monsters of the Midway, Haynes never approached his college level of production in the pros. He made only four starts in his three seasons in Chicago, setting a career best with 31 tackles in 2004. *All-Pro Seasons: None*

15. Philadelphia: **JEROME McDOUGLE**, DE, Miami
'03-06, Philadelphia; '08, N.Y. Giants
McDougle became the first Miami Hurricane drafted by the Eagles since the late Jerome Brown, but he never approached Brown's level, mostly due to injuries and factors out of his control. Most notably, McDougle was shot during a robbery attempt just prior to camp in 2005, forcing him to miss the entire 2005 season. His return for the 2006 season earned him the Eagles' Ed Block Courage Award, but that was the only honor he earned during a career that saw zero starts and only 37 tackles and three sacks. *All-Pro Seasons: None*



16. Pittsburgh: **TROY POLAMALU**, S, USC
'03-present, Pittsburgh
Polamalu has become a multimedia superstar and the face (and hair) of a storied franchise. Most of all, though, he's a great football player, delivering bone-jarring hits that belie his soft-spoken off-field demeanor. He made seven Pro Bowls over an eight-season span from 2004-11, providing an unmatched physical presence in the Steelers secondary. For his career, Polamalu has amassed 30 interceptions and nearly 500 tackles, and he's the proud possessor of two Super Bowl rings. *All-Pro Seasons: 4 (2005, 2008, 2010, 2011)*

17. Arizona: **BRYANT JOHNSON**, WR, Penn State
'03-07, Arizona; '08, San Francisco; '09-10, Detroit; '11, Houston
The third Penn State Nittany Lion selected in the first round, Johnson joined his fellow first-round Lions in failing to electrify at the next level, although he did manage to carve out a nine-year career. Johnson never rose above serviceable, posting career bests of 49 catches (2004) and four receiving touchdowns (2006). The Cards were obviously hoping for the big-play potential Johnson flashed at Penn State, but he turned into more of a possession guy. *All-Pro Seasons: None*

18. Arizona: **CALVIN PACE**, DE/LB, Wake Forest
'03-07, Arizona; '08-present, N.Y. Jets
The athletic Pace was an enticing mix of size and speed for the Cardinals, and he has proved to be a competent and productive linebacker at the NFL level, posting career highs of 98 tackles (in 2007, a season that earned him a big free agent payday with the Jets) and eight sacks (in 2009). Pace had his best seasons as a Jet, although his tenure was tainted by a failed test for performance-enhancing drugs in 2009 that resulted in a four-game suspension. He signed a one-year deal to remain with the Jets in April. *All-Pro Seasons: None*

19. Baltimore: **KYLE BOLLER**, QB, California
'03-08, Baltimore; '09, St. Louis; '10-11, Oakland; '12, San Diego
After a highly productive, highly decorated career at Cal, Boller embarked on a journeyman career that has taken him to four teams and resulted in only 47 career starts. Boller did start all 16 games for the Ravens in 2004, throwing for 2,559 yards and 13 touchdowns and leading the team to a 9–7 record, but it wasn't enough to prevent the Ravens from signing Steve McNair the following offseason. Since then, Boller has gone 6–16 as a starter for the Ravens, Rams and Raiders, running his career starting record to 20–27. *All-Pro Seasons: None*

20. Denver: **GEORGE FOSTER**, T, Georgia
'03-06, Denver; '07-08, Detroit
Seeking a coveted bookend tackle, Denver turned to the Georgia stalwart, giving him a season to acclimate before plugging him in at right tackle, where he spent two full years and part of a third as a fixture on a Denver O-line that was consistently producing 1,000-yard rushers at the time. Foster lost his grip on the starting spot and was traded to the Lions, starting 12 games in two seasons for Detroit before being released after the '08 season. *All-Pro Seasons: None*

21. Cleveland: **JEFF FAINE**, C, Notre Dame
'03-05, Cleveland; '06-07, New Orleans; '08-11, Tampa Bay; '12, Cincinnati
To use a word that has popped up more than once with this draft class, Faine has been serviceable during his 10 years in the league, starting 124 games for four different franchises. A highly regarded center for Notre Dame, Faine helped lead the Fighting Irish to 10 wins his senior season, but he has played in only two playoff games at the next level. *All-Pro Seasons: None*

22. Chicago: **REX GROSSMAN**, QB, Florida
'03-08, Chicago; '09, Houston; '10-present, Washington
The oft-maligned Grossman, the only quarterback from the 2003 draft to start a Super Bowl, was a prolific signal-caller for Steve Spurrier and Ron Zook at Florida and finished as the 2002 Heisman runner-up. After a stuttering start to his career, things came together in 2006 as Grossman became the first Bear QB to start 16 games since 1995 and led the team to the Super Bowl. Questions over arm strength, work ethic and preparation plagued Grossman, not to mention a lack of production and a level of inconsistency that led fans to label him "Good Rex" or "Bad Rex." *All-Pro Seasons: None*

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

23. Buffalo: **WILLIS McGAHEE**, RB, Miami
'03-06, Buffalo; '07-10, Baltimore; '11-present, Denver
McGahee overcame a serious knee injury suffered in his final college game, the Canes' Fiesta Bowl national championship matchup with Ohio State, to become a 1,000-yard rusher for three different franchises, a distinction that he shares only with Ricky Watters in NFL history. The seriousness of the injury brought speculation that he would fall out of the first round, but the Bills rolled the dice and were rewarded. After McGahee sat out the 2003 season to rehab, he broke off three 1,000-yard seasons in a four-year span. He was traded to Baltimore in 2007 and promptly made his first Pro Bowl after a 1,207-yard season. Another change of scenery brought another 1,000-yard campaign, as McGahee rushed for 1,199 yards for Denver in 2011 and joined Tim Tebow as the team's two-headed battering ram. *All-Pro Seasons: None*

24. Indianapolis: **DALLAS CLARK**, TE, Iowa
'03-11, Indianapolis; '12, Tampa Bay

It seems like Clark caught every other pass from Peyton Manning for about 20 years or so, so it's surprising that he's earned only one Pro Bowl appearance. In 2008, Clark broke John Mackey's Colts franchise record for single-season receiving yards by a tight end, compiling 848 yards. He one-upped himself the following year with his only career 1,000-yard season, catching 100 passes for 1,106 yards and 10 scores and earning All-Pro honors. Manning's neck injury and subsequent departure from Indy led ultimately to Clark's release, and he had a mediocre 2012 season in Tampa Bay. *All-Pro Seasons: 1 (2009)*

25. N.Y. Giants: **WILLIAM JOSEPH**, DT, Miami
'03-07, N.Y. Giants; '08-09
Joseph started all 51 games of his Miami career and played in 44 wins in what was a golden age for Hurricane football. Seduced by the Miami aura, the Giants made Joseph a first-round reach and were able to coax only 17 starts and 72 tackles out of him before cutting their losses and releasing him. Joseph was unable to revive his career with an unsuccessful stint in Oakland, and his final NFL ledger shows only 88 total tackles and seven sacks. Post-football, he was charged in an identity theft scheme. *All-Pro Seasons: None*

26. San Francisco: **KWAME HARRIS**, T, Stanford
'03-07, San Francisco; '08, Oakland
Harris re-entered the news early in 2013 with his arraignment for a domestic violence incident with a former boyfriend, making him that rare pro athlete who identifies as gay. Prior to that, the Jamaica native was remembered as a hulking tackle who was a liability in pass-protection and generally a disappointment following a promising Stanford career. The second offensive tackle taken in the draft, Harris had an unfortunate knack for penalties, committing 15 in 2005 (including seven false starts). Ultimately, the Niners gave up on Harris, and he signed with Oakland with hopes of rejuvenating his career, but he instead returned to his old habits. *All-Pro Seasons: None*

27. Kansas City: **LARRY JOHNSON**, RB, Penn State
'03-09, Kansas City; '09, Cincinnati; '10, Washington; '11, Miami
For a couple of seasons, Johnson was the most productive (and overworked) running back in the NFL and was a fantasy owner's dream. After a Maxwell Award-winning senior season in Happy Valley, the Chiefs drafted him as their projected replacement for Priest Holmes. Johnson truly emerged in his third NFL season as one of the league's elite backs, rushing for 1,750 yards and 20 touchdowns and catching 33 passes. Amazingly, he was even better the next season, setting an NFL record with 416 carries and amassing 1,789 yards and 17 scores on the ground while catching a career-high 41 passes for 410 more yards. Contract squabbles, injuries and off-the-field issues conspired to hasten the end of his career after unproductive cameos in Cincinnati, Washington and Miami. *All-Pro Seasons: 1 (2006)*

28. Tennessee: **ANDRE WOOLFOLK**, CB, Oklahoma
'03-06, Tennessee
Many thought the Titans were reaching with this pick, and they were right. Woolfolk managed only three career interceptions and 12 career starts in his four forgettable years in Tennessee. Woolfolk had earned some notoriety as a two-way player and kick-blocker at Oklahoma, but those hints of athleticism never translated at the next level, and Woolfolk has been out of the league since failing to catch on with the Jets in 2008 training camp. *All-Pro Seasons: None*

29. Green Bay: **NICK BARNETT**, LB, Oregon State
'03-10, Green Bay; '11-12, Buffalo
Barnett has been one of the better players of this draft, serving as a defensive cornerstone for some good Green Bay defenses, earning a Super Bowl ring and generally functioning as a tackle machine for two different franchises. Injury issues marred his last few years with the Packers, and he was released prior to the 2011 season. Barnett signed with Buffalo, where he resumed the tackle and sack numbers that marked his early tenure in Green Bay. *All-Pro Seasons: None*

30. San Diego: **SAMMY DAVIS**, CB, Texas A&M
'03-05, San Diego; '06, San Francisco; '07, Tampa Bay
Davis (and yes, he is a Jr.) didn't provide much entertainment during a disappointing five-year career that produced only three interceptions. Davis' best year was his first, when he started all 16 games for the Chargers, notching 58 total tackles and two interceptions. He started only 16 more games after that, only two of them in his last two seasons in the league, with San Francisco and Tampa Bay. *All-Pro Seasons: None*

31. Oakland: **NNAMDI ASOMUGHA**, CB, California
'03-10, Oakland; '11-12, Philadelphia; '13 San Francisco
Asomugha had some great seasons in Oakland, but unfortunately for him, he's known today for his high-profile free-agent signing in Philly that failed to pan out either for him or for the Eagles. Asomugha's arrival in Philly helped prompt Vince Young to dub the 2011 Eagles the "Dream Team," but two nightmare seasons ensued, and Asomugha was released in early 2013 amid feelings that his four interceptions in Philly weren't worth the huge free agent contract. The Philly failures overshadowed some great years in Oakland, including a 2006 season in which Asomugha intercepted eight passes. He'll try to restore his reputation with the 49ers this year. *All-Pro Seasons: 2 (2008, 2010)*

32. Oakland: **TYLER BRAYTON**, DE, Colorado
'03-07, Oakland; '08-10, Carolina; '11, Indianapolis
Brayton joined Asomugha with the Raiders, who used a pick they had acquired in the Jon Gruden deal to select the bruising Colorado Buffalo. Brayton was a serviceable defensive end but never rose to a Pro Bowl level. Following a solid rookie season that saw him start all 16 games and post a career-high 61 tackles, Brayton gradually saw his playing time diminish and signed with Carolina, where he had his best seasons, posting 4.5 and five sacks, respectively, in 2008 and 2009. After a single season in Indianapolis in 2011 as a situational player, Brayton was released and has been out of the league since. *All-Pro Seasons: None*

2013 DRAFT RECAP

PRESENTED BY Wrangler

ROUND 1

NO.	TEAM	PLAYER	POS.	COLLEGE
1.	Chiefs	Eric Fisher	T	Central Michigan
2.	Jaguars	Luke Joeckel	T	Texas A&M
3.	Dolphins	Dion Jordan	DE	Oregon
4.	Eagles	Lane Johnson	T	Oklahoma
5.	Lions	Ziggy Ansah	DE	BYU
6.	Browns	Barkevious Mingo	DE	LSU
7.	Cardinals	Jonathan Cooper	G	North Carolina
8.	Rams	Tavon Austin	WR	West Virginia
9.	Jets	Dee Milliner	CB	Alabama
10.	Titans	Chance Warmack	G	Alabama
11.	Chargers	D.J. Fluker	T	Alabama
12.	Raiders	D.J. Hayden	CB	Houston
13.	Jets	Sheldon Richardson	DT	Missouri
14.	Panthers	Star Lotulelei	DT	Utah
15.	Saints	Kenny Vaccaro	FS	Texas
16.	Bills	EJ Manuel	QB	Florida State
17.	Steelers	Jarvis Jones	OLB	Georgia
18.	49ers	Eric Reid	SS	LSU
19.	Giants	Justin Pugh	T	Syracuse
20.	Bears	Kyle Long	G	Oregon
21.	Bengals	Tyler Eifert	TE	Notre Dame
22.	Falcons	Desmond Trufant	CB	Washington
23.	Vikings	Sharrif Floyd	DT	Florida
24.	Colts	Bjoern Werner	DE	Florida State
25.	Vikings	Xavier Rhodes	CB	Florida State
26.	Packers	Datone Jones	DE	UCLA
27.	Texans	DeAndre Hopkins	WR	Clemson
28.	Broncos	Sylvester Williams	DT	North Carolina
29.	Vikings	Cordarrelle Patterson	WR	Tennessee
30.	Rams	Alec Ogletree	ILB	Georgia
31.	Cowboys	Travis Frederick	C	Wisconsin
32.	Ravens	Matt Elam	FS	Florida

ROUND 2

NO.	TEAM	PLAYER	POS.	COLLEGE
33.	Jaguars	Johnathan Cyprien	FS	FIU
34.	Titans	Justin Hunter	WR	Tennessee
35.	Eagles	Zach Ertz	TE	Stanford
36.	Lions	Darius Slay	CB	Mississippi State
37.	Bengals	Giovani Bernard	RB	North Carolina
38.	Chargers	Manti Te'o	ILB	Notre Dame
39.	Jets	Geno Smith	QB	West Virginia
40.	49ers	Cornellius Carradine	DE	Florida State
41.	Bills	Robert Woods	WR	USC
42.	Raiders	Menelik Watson	T	Florida State
43.	Buccaneers	Johnthan Banks	CB	Mississippi State
44.	Panthers	Kawann Short	DT	Purdue
45.	Cardinals	Kevin Minter	ILB	LSU
46.	Bills	Kiko Alonso	ILB	Oregon
47.	Cowboys	Gavin Escobar	TE	San Diego State
48.	Steelers	Le'Veon Bell	RB	Michigan State
49.	Giants	Johnathan Hankins	DT	Ohio State
50.	Bears	Jon Bostic	ILB	Florida
51.	Redskins	David Amerson	CB	NC State
52.	Patriots	Jamie Collins	OLB	Southern Miss
53.	Bengals	Margus Hunt	DE	SMU
54.	Dolphins	Jamar Taylor	CB	Boise State
55.	49ers	Vance McDonald	TE	Rice
56.	Ravens	Arthur Brown	ILB	Kansas State
57.	Texans	D.J. Swearinger	SS	South Carolina
58.	Broncos	Montee Ball	RB	Wisconsin
59.	Patriots	Aaron Dobson	WR	Marshall
60.	Falcons	Robert Alford	CB	SE Louisiana
61.	Packers	Eddie Lacy	RB	Alabama
62.	Seahawks	Christine Michael	RB	Texas A&M

ROUND 3

NO.	TEAM	PLAYER	POS.	COLLEGE
63.	Chiefs	Travis Kelce	TE	Cincinnati
64.	Jaguars	Dwayne Gratz	CB	Connecticut
65.	Lions	Larry Warford	G	Kentucky
66.	Raiders	Sio Moore	OLB	Connecticut
67.	Eagles	Bennie Logan	DT	LSU
68.	Browns	Leon McFadden	CB	San Diego State
69.	Cardinals	Tyrann Mathieu	CB	LSU
70.	Titans	Blidi Wreh-Wilson	CB	Connecticut
71.	Rams	T.J. McDonald	FS	USC
72.	Jets	Brian Winters	G	Kent State
73.	Buccaneers	Mike Glennon	QB	NC State
74.	Cowboys	Terrance Williams	WR	Baylor
75.	Saints	Terron Armstead	T	Ark.-Pine Bluff
76.	Chargers	Keenan Allen	WR	California
77.	Dolphins	Dallas Thomas	G	Tennessee
78.	Bills	Marquise Goodwin	WR	Texas
79.	Steelers	Markus Wheaton	WR	Oregon State
80.	Cowboys	J.J. Wilcox	FS	Ga. Southern
81.	Giants	Damontre Moore	DE	Texas A&M
82.	Saints	John Jenkins	DT	Georgia
83.	Patriots	Logan Ryan	CB	Rutgers
84.	Bengals	Shawn Williams	SS	Georgia
85.	Redskins	Jordan Reed	TE	Florida
86.	Colts	Hugh Thornton	G	Illinois
87.	Seahawks	Jordan Hill	DT	Penn State
88.	49ers	Corey Lemonier	DE	Auburn
89.	Texans	Brennan Williams	T	North Carolina
90.	Broncos	Kayvon Webster	CB	South Florida
91.	Patriots	Duron Harmon	SS	Rutgers
92.	Rams	Stedman Bailey	WR	West Virginia
93.	Dolphins	Will Davis	CB	Utah State
94.	Ravens	Brandon Williams	DT	Mo. Southern
95.	Texans	Sam Montgomery	DE	LSU
96.	Chiefs	Knile Davis	RB	Arkansas
97.	Titans	Zaviar Gooden	OLB	Missouri

ROUND 4

NO.	TEAM	PLAYER	POS.	COLLEGE
98.	Eagles	Matt Barkley	QB	USC
99.	Chiefs	Nico Johnson	ILB	Alabama
100.	Buccaneers	Akeem Spence	DT	Illinois
101.	Jaguars	Ace Sanders	WR	South Carolina
102.	Patriots	Josh Boyce	WR	TCU
103.	Cardinals	Alex Okafor	DE	Texas
104.	Dolphins	Jelani Jenkins	OLB	Florida
105.	Bills	Duke Williams	FS	Nevada
106.	Dolphins	Dion Sims	TE	Michigan State
107.	Titans	Brian Schwenke	C	California
108.	Panthers	Edmund Kugbila	G	Valdosta State
109.	Packers	David Bakhtiari	T	Colorado
110.	Giants	Ryan Nassib	QB	Syracuse
111.	Steelers	Shamarko Thomas	SS	Syracuse
112.	Raiders	Tyler Wilson	QB	Arkansas
113.	Rams	Barrett Jones	G	Alabama
114.	Cowboys	B.W. Webb	CB	William & Mary
115.	Steelers	Landry Jones	QB	Oklahoma
116.	Cardinals	Earl Watford	G	James Madison
117.	Bears	Khaseem Greene	OLB	Rutgers
118.	Bengals	Sean Porter	OLB	Texas A&M
119.	Redskins	Phillip Thomas	SS	Fresno State
120.	Vikings	Gerald Hodges	OLB	Penn State
121.	Colts	Khaled Holmes	C	USC
122.	Packers	J.C. Tretter	T	Cornell
123.	Seahawks	Chris Harper	WR	Kansas State
124.	Texans	Trevardo Williams	DE	Connecticut
125.	Packers	Johnathan Franklin	RB	UCLA
126.	Buccaneers	William Gholston	DE	Michigan State
127.	Falcons	Malliciah Goodman	DE	Clemson
128.	49ers	Quinton Patton	WR	Louisiana Tech

2013 DRAFT RECAP

Wrangler
Real. Comfortable. Jeans.

ROUND 4 cont'd

NO.	TEAM	PLAYER	POS.	COLLEGE
129.	Ravens	John Simon	DE	Ohio State
130.	Ravens	Kyle Juszczyk	FB	Harvard
131.	49ers	Marcus Lattimore	RB	South Carolina
132.	Lions	Devin Taylor	DE	South Carolina
133.	Falcons	Levine Toilolo	TE	Stanford

ROUND 5

NO.	TEAM	PLAYER	POS.	COLLEGE
134.	Chiefs	Sanders Commings	CB	Georgia
135.	Jaguars	Denard Robinson	WR	Michigan
136.	Eagles	Earl Wolff	SS	NC State
137.	Seahawks	Jesse Williams	DT	Alabama
138.	Seahawks	Tharold Simon	CB	LSU
139.	Colts	Montori Hughes	DT	Tenn.-Martin
140.	Cardinals	Stepfan Taylor	RB	Stanford
141.	Jets	Oday Aboushi	T	Virginia
142.	Titans	Lavar Edwards	DE	LSU
143.	Bills	Jonathan Meeks	SS	Clemson
144.	Saints	Kenny Stills	WR	Oklahoma
145.	Chargers	Steve Williams	CB	California
146.	Broncos	Quanterus Smith	DE	Western Kentucky
147.	Buccaneers	Steven Means	DE	Buffalo
148.	Panthers	A.J. Klein	ILB	Iowa State
149.	Rams	Brandon McGee	CB	Miami (Fla.)
150.	Steelers	Terry Hawthorne	CB	Illinois
151.	Cowboys	Joseph Randle	RB	Oklahoma State
152.	Giants	Cooper Taylor	SS	Richmond
153.	Falcons	Stansly Maponga	DE	TCU
154.	Redskins	Chris Thompson	RB	Florida State
155.	Vikings	Jeff Locke	P	UCLA
156.	Bengals	Tanner Hawkinson	T	Kansas
157.	49ers	Quinton Dial	DE	Alabama
158.	Seahawks	Luke Willson	TE	Rice
159.	Packers	Micah Hyde	CB	Iowa
160.	Rams	Zac Stacy	RB	Vanderbilt
161.	Broncos	Tavarres King	WR	Georgia
162.	Redskins	Brandon Jenkins	DE	Florida State
163.	Bears	Jordan Mills	T	Louisiana Tech
164.	Dolphins	Mike Gillislee	RB	Florida
165.	Lions	Sam Martin	P	Appalachian St.
166.	Dolphins	Caleb Sturgis	K	Florida
167.	Packers	Josh Boyd	DT	Mississippi State
168.	Ravens	Ricky Wagner	T	Wisconsin

ROUND 6

NO.	TEAM	PLAYER	POS.	COLLEGE
169.	Jaguars	Josh Evans	FS	Florida
170.	Chiefs	Eric Kush	C	California (Pa.)
171.	Lions	Corey Fuller	WR	Virginia Tech
172.	Raiders	Nick Kasa	TE	Colorado
173.	Broncos	Vinston Painter	T	Virginia Tech
174.	Cardinals	Ryan Swope	WR	Texas A&M
175.	Browns	Jamoris Slaughter	SS	Notre Dame
176.	Texans	David Quessenberry	T	San Jose State
177.	Bills	Dustin Hopkins	K	Florida State
178.	Jets	William Campbell	G	Michigan
179.	Chargers	Tourek Williams	DE	FIU
180.	49ers	Nick Moody	OLB	Florida State
181.	Raiders	Latavius Murray	RB	UCF
182.	Panthers	Kenjon Barner	RB	Oregon
183.	Saints	Rufus Johnson	DE	Tarleton State
184.	Raiders	Mychal Rivera	TE	Tennessee
185.	Cowboys	DeVonte Holloman	OLB	South Carolina
186.	Steelers	Justin Brown	WR	Oklahoma
187.	Cardinals	Andre Ellington	RB	Clemson
188.	Bears	Cornelius Washington	OLB	Georgia
189.	Buccaneers	Mike James	RB	Miami

ROUND 6 cont'd

NO.	TEAM	PLAYER	POS.	COLLEGE
190.	Bengals	Rex Burkhead	RB	Nebraska
191.	Redskins	Bacarri Rambo	SS	Georgia
192.	Colts	John Boyett	SS	Oregon
193.	Packers	Nate Palmer	OLB	Illinois State
194.	Seahawks	Spencer Ware	RB	LSU
195.	Texans	Alan Bonner	WR	Jacksonville St.
196.	Vikings	Jeff Baca	G	UCLA
197.	Bengals	Cobi Hamilton	WR	Arkansas
198.	Texans	Chris Jones	DT	Bowling Green
199.	Lions	Theo Riddick	RB	Notre Dame
200.	Ravens	Kapron Lewis-Moore	DE	Notre Dame
201.	Texans	Ryan Griffin	TE	Connecticut
202.	Titans	Khalid Wooten	CB	Nevada
203.	Ravens	Ryan Jensen	T	Colo. St.-Pueblo
204.	Chiefs	Braden Wilson	FB	Kansas State
205.	Raiders	Stacy McGee	DT	Oklahoma
206.	Steelers	Vince Williams	ILB	Florida State

ROUND 7

207.	Chiefs	Mike Catapano	DE	Princeton
208.	Jaguars	Jeremy Harris	CB	New Mexico St.
209.	Raiders	Brice Butler	WR	San Diego State
210.	Jaguars	Demetrius McCray	CB	Appalachian St.
211.	Lions	Michael Williams	TE	Alabama
212.	Eagles	Joe Kruger	DE	Utah
213.	Vikings	Michael Mauti	ILB	Penn State
214.	Vikings	Travis Bond	G	North Carolina
215.	Jets	Tommy Bohanon	FB	Wake Forest
216.	Packers	Charles Johnson	WR	Grand Valley St.
217.	Browns	Armonty Bryant	DE	E. Central (Okla.)
218.	Eagles	Jordan Poyer	CB	Oregon State
219.	Cardinals	D.C. Jefferson	TE	Rutgers
220.	Seahawks	Ryan Seymour	G	Vanderbilt
221.	Chargers	Brad Sorensen	QB	Southern Utah
222.	Bills	Chris Gragg	TE	Arkansas
223.	Steelers	Nick Williams	DT	Samford
224.	Packers	Kevin Dorsey	WR	Maryland
225.	Giants	Eric Herman	G	Ohio
226.	Patriots	Michael Buchanan	DE	Illinois
227.	Browns	Garrett Gilkey	T	Chadron State
228.	Redskins	Jawan Jamison	RB	Rutgers
229.	Vikings	Everett Dawkins	DT	Florida State
230.	Colts	Kerwynn Williams	RB	Utah State
231.	Seahawks	Ty Powell	DE	Harding
232.	Packers	Sam Barrington	ILB	South Florida
233.	Raiders	David Bass	DE	Mo. Western
234.	Broncos	Zac Dysert	QB	Miami (Ohio)
235.	Patriots	Steve Beauharnais	ILB	Rutgers
236.	Bears	Marquess Wilson	WR	Washington St.
237.	49ers	B.J. Daniels	QB	South Florida
238.	Ravens	Aaron Mellette	WR	Elon
239.	Eagles	David King	DE	Oklahoma
240.	Bengals	Reid Fragel	T	Ohio State
241.	Seahawks	Jared Smith	DT	New Hampshire
242.	Seahawks	Michael Bowie	T	NE Oklahoma St.
243.	Falcons	Kemal Ishmael	SS	UCF
244.	Falcons	Zeke Motta	SS	Notre Dame
245.	Lions	Brandon Hepburn	ILB	Florida A&M
246.	49ers	Carter Bykowski	T	Iowa State
247.	Ravens	Marc Anthony	CB	California
248.	Titans	Daimion Stafford	SS	Nebraska
249.	Falcons	Sean Renfree	QB	Duke
250.	Dolphins	Don Jones	SS	Arkansas State
251.	Bengals	T.J. Johnson	C	South Carolina
252.	49ers	Marcus Cooper	CB	Rutgers
253.	Giants	Michael Cox	RB	UMass
254.	Colts	Justice Cunningham	TE	South Carolina

2013 DRAFT RECAP

PRESENTED BY Wrangler

QUARTERBACK CLASS of 2013

The 30th anniversary of the greatest quarterback draft in NFL history, the Class of 1983, left a lot to be desired. Only one signal-caller was selected in the first round this year, compared to the six selected in '83 – John Elway (first overall), Todd Blackledge (seventh), Jim Kelly (14th), Tony Eason (15th), Ken O'Brien (24th) and Dan Marino (27th).

EJ Manuel, Florida State (Bills, 16th overall) Buffalo traded down with the Rams (from No. 8 to 16), added a few picks and still got their man. Although raw, Manuel has all the tools, including a massive frame (6'5", 237), huge hands (10⅜"), a strong arm and more mobility (4.65 in the 40-yard dash) than any quarterback in the class. The Virginia Beach native looks good on paper, too, with a career 66.9 completion percentage, 47-to-28 TD-to-INT ratio and 25–6 record as a starter, including a 4–0 mark in bowl games.

Geno Smith, West Virginia (Jets, 39th) Much like his 2012 season, Smith's draft process progressed from hot to cold. WVU jumped off to a 5–0 start last year, with Smith throwing 25 TDs and zero INTs in the process before staggering to a 2–6 finish. The Florida native started off as an intriguing potential top-10 pick before being ripped apart by the media, firing his agents and leaving the green room early when it became clear he wasn't going in the first round on Thursday night. Now the QB accused of being an aloof diva is headed to New York. What could possibly go wrong?

Mike Glennon, NC State (Buccaneers, 73rd) The gangly 6'7" Glennon looks like Joe Flacco one minute and John Skelton the next. Buccaneers boss Greg Schiano has long been a fan, having recruited Glennon when the coach was at Rutgers.

Matt Barkley, USC (Eagles, 98th) How the mighty have fallen. The USC golden boy was thought to be the frontrunner for the No. 1 overall pick prior to the 2012 season. And the Trojans' all-time wins leader did go with the first pick – of the fourth round.

Ryan Nassib, Syracuse (Giants, 110th) From the Orange to the Big Apple, Nassib was passed over by his former college coach and new Bills boss Doug Marrone, who took Manuel instead.

Tyler Wilson, Arkansas (Raiders, 112th) This Hog's draft stock wiped out along with Bobby Petrino's motorcycle-mistress scandal.

Landry Jones, Oklahoma (Steelers, 115th) Jones was selected two weeks after his wife, Whitney Hand, was picked in the WNBA Draft.

Brad Sorensen, Southern Utah (Chargers, 221st) California native is already 25 years old, having spent two years on an LDS Church mission in Spain.

Zac Dysert, Miami (Ohio) (Broncos, 234th) The best RedHawk since Big Ben Roethlisberger will battle with Brock Osweiler to back up Peyton Manning.

B.J. Daniels, South Florida (49ers, 237th) A 6'0" dual-threat, Daniels Bull-dozed for more than 2,000 career rushing yards and 25 TDs at USF.

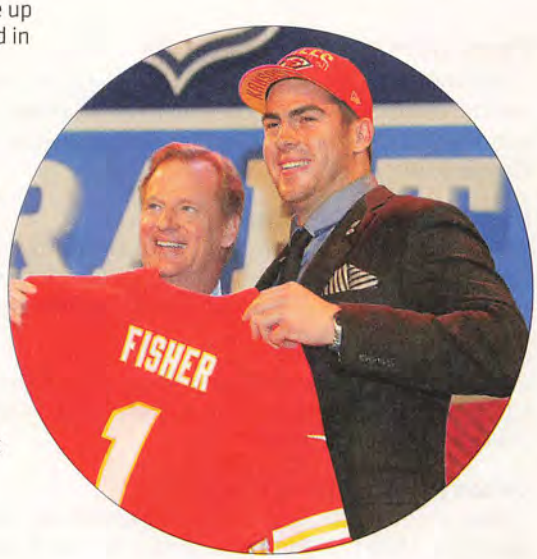
Sean Renfree, Duke (Falcons, 249th) Well-coached by David Cutcliffe, Renfree also spent his summers throwing with the Manning Bros. in Durham.

2013 DRAFT RECAP

Wrangler
Real. Comfortable. Jeans.

BIG MAN Draft

What this year's draft lacked in quality pretty-boy skill position players it made up for with its quantity of fat-boy offensive linemen. Nine O-linemen were drafted in the first round, including six of the top 11 picks.



Eric Fisher, T, Central Michigan (Chiefs, 1st overall)
6'7", 306 pounds, 34½" arms, 10½" hands
Joins Michigan's Jake Long (Dolphins, 2008), Ohio State's Orlando Pace (Rams, 1997) and USC's Ron Yary (Vikings, 1968) as the only offensive tackles to be selected No. 1 overall since the NFL and AFL merged the draft in 1966, beginning the Common Draft era. Leon Sandcastle fans everywhere were disappointed by the pick.

Luke Joeckel, T, Texas A&M (Jaguars, 2nd)
6'6", 306 pounds, 34¼" arms, 10 1/8" hands
Johnny Football will miss his blindside blocker in Aggieland. Jags fans are hoping the baby-faced Joeckel plays as well as the franchise's last No. 2 overall pick left tackle, Tony Boselli, who was the first pick in team history in 1995.

Lane Johnson, T, Oklahoma (Eagles, 4th)
6'6", 303 pounds, 35¼" arms, 10⅞" hands
NFL Network's Deion Sanders asked Johnson how he went from being a high school quarterback to a top-five pick offensive tackle. "I don't know. I still wonder myself," Johnson said. "I think when you see the buffet, you just don't pass by anymore." Solid advice from a 300-plus-pounder, albeit one who runs a 4.72 in the 40-yard dash and has a 34" vertical leap.

Jonathan Cooper, G, North Carolina (Cardinals, 7th)
6'2", 311 pounds, 33" arms, 10¼" hands
The long-locked Tar Heel is the first guard to go in the top 10 since Chris Naeole was taken 10th by the Saints in 1997.

Chance Warmack, G, Alabama (Titans, 10th)
6'2", 317 pounds, 34¾" arms, 9⅝" hands
War Daddy teams with Cooper to give the Class of 2013 two guards in the top 10 picks, the first time that's happened since Dave Cadigan (Jets, eighth) and Eric Moore (Giants, 10th) back in 1988. Unfortunately, Warmack's glistening gut will have to be covered up in the No Fun League, whose uniform police frown on the type of halter-top jersey the mauler wore at Bama.

D.J. Fluker, T, Alabama (Chargers, 11th)
6'5", 339 pounds, 36¾" arms, 10½" hands
Daniel Lee Jesus Fluker was the third straight Bama player picked and the first of back-to-back D.J.'s, one spot ahead of Raiders CB Derek Sherrard Hayden Jr.

Justin Pugh, G, Syracuse (Giants, 19th)
6'4", 307 pounds, 32" arms, 10¼" hands
Pugh's arms were nearly five inches shorter than Fluker's, which will likely kick the college tackle inside to guard at the next level.

Kyle Long, G, Oregon (Chicago, 20th)
6'6", 313 pounds, 33⅜" arms, 11" hands
Howie's son and Chris' brother had a mid-90s fastball as a lefty pitcher who originally planned on playing baseball at Florida State.

Travis Frederick, C, Wisconsin (Cowboys, 31st)
6'4", 312 pounds, 33" arms, 10" hands
No one expected to see the Big Foot (Wis.) High School alum with the abominable beard on the Thursday night first-round coverage. But there were multiple confirmed sightings.

Ric Fogel

2013 DRAFT RECAP

PRESENTED BY Wrangler

TRADE BAIT

This year, five former first-round picks – including No. 1 overall picks, Heisman Trophy winners, Offensive Rookies of the Year and a Defensive Player of the Year – were included in trades involving 2013 draft picks.

Percy Harvin, WR, Seahawks

A triple-threat accustomed to breaking ankles of mystified would-be tacklers, Harvin's rehab from his own broken ankle moved from the Twin Cities to the Emerald City after the Hawks sent this year's first-round pick (25th overall), seventh-rounder (214th) and a 2014 third-rounder to the Vikings.

Darrelle Revis, CB, Buccaneers

Revis Island has moved from New York to the bay between Tampa and St. Petersburg. All it cost was this year's first-round pick (13th overall, DT Shelden Richardson) to the Jets – and a six-year, $96 million contract for arguably the game's top corner.

Alex Smith, QB, Chiefs

Colin Kaepernick's Super Bowl runner-up backup is Andy Reid's first starting QB in K.C., following a move that sent the Chiefs' second-rounder (34th overall) and a conditional 2014 draft pick to the 49ers.

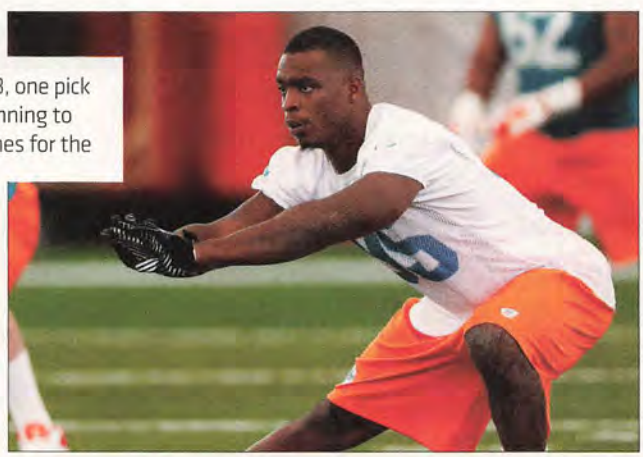
Carson Palmer, QB, Cardinals

Arizona played its Cards right, swapping late-round picks with the Raiders (moving down from 176th to 219th) and sending a 2014 conditional seventh-rounder to Oakland – the team that gave a 2012 first-rounder (17th overall) and 2013 second-rounder (37th) to Cincinnati in exchange for Palmer way back in 2011.

Robert Griffin III, QB, Redskins

Washington's face of the franchise came at a steep price in March 2012, but it was one well worth paying if RG3's rookie season is any indication. The Skins traded their 2012 first (sixth overall) and second-round (39th) picks, 2013 first-rounder (22nd) and 2014 first to the Rams in exchange for last year's No. 2 overall pick. The Rams turned their picks into defensive tackle Michael Brockers, cornerback Janoris Jenkins, running back Isaiah Pead, guard Rokevious Watkins and linebacker Alec Ogletree.

TRADING UP



Dion Jordan, DE, Oregon (Dolphins, 3rd overall)

The Fins made a splash, trading up from 12 to the Raiders' spot at No. 3, one pick before Jordan's college coach, Chip Kelly, may or may not have been planning to take the neon Duck. As always, Al Davis' brother, Jerry, worked the phones for the Silver-and-Black, who also received Miami's second-rounder (42nd).

Tavon Austin, WR, West Virginia (Rams, 8th)

With picks to play with following last year's Redskins-RG3 draft deal, the Rams made a power play – trading first- (16th), second- (46th), third- (78th) and seventh-rounders (222nd) to the Bills to move up for the mini-Mountaineer with turbo boosters.

Eric Reid, FS, LSU (49ers, 18th)

Dashon Goldson had one foot out the door as a free agent, so the Niners traded a first- (31st) and third-round pick (74th) to the Cowboys to take the hard-hitting LSU center fielder.

Desmond Trufant, CB, Washington (Falcons, 22nd)

Atlanta is all-in after just one playoff win with the Mike Smith and Matt Ryan regime. Three picks – a first (30th), third (92nd) and sixth (198th) – sent to St. Louis were enough to draft the third Trufant brother to play cornerback in the NFL.

Cordarrelle Patterson, WR, Tennessee (Vikings, 29th)

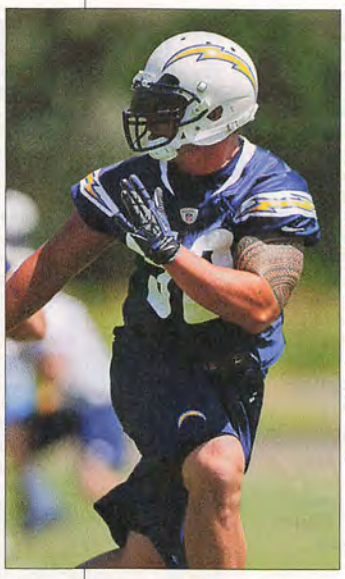
Having already drafted Florida defensive tackle Sharrif Floyd (23rd) and Florida State cornerback Xavier Rhodes (25th), the Vikings jumped back into the first round – trading a second- (52nd), third- (83rd), fourth- (102nd) and seventh-rounder (229th) – for a size-speed combo wideout whom they gave Randy Moss' old No. 84 jersey.

Wrangler
Real. Comfortable. Jeans.

DRAFT NOTES

TRICK QUESTIONS

Three of the highest-profile players in the draft carry the biggest question marks.



Manti Te'o, ILB, Notre Dame
(Chargers, 38th overall)
What in the Catfish was the deal with the whole fake girlfriend national scandal?

Tyrann Mathieu, CB, LSU
(Cardinals, 69th)
Can the Heisman finalist formerly known as "Honey Badger" stay out of trouble?

Marcus Lattimore, RB, South Carolina
(49ers, 131st)
Will multiple devastating knee injuries derail the career of the Gamecock runner?

S-E-C! S-E-C!

The Southeastern Conference has won the last seven BCS National Championship Games – probably because the league has more NFL talent (at least twice as much) than any other. Of the 254 picks in the 2013 NFL Draft, 63 were SEC players. That's 24.8 percent.

63	**SEC**
31	**ACC**
28	**Pac-12**
22	**Big 12**
22	**Big Ten**
19	**Big East**
8	Conference USA
7	MAC
7	Mountain West
7	I-A Independents*
6	WAC
5	Southern
4	CAA
4	Sun Belt
3	Ivy League
3	MIAA
2	GAC
2	Ohio Valley
2	Rocky Mountain
1	Big Sky
1	Great Lakes
1	Gulf South
1	Lone Star
1	MEAC
1	Missouri Valley
1	PSAC
1	Southland
1	SWAC

*Notre Dame (6), BYU (1)

INTERNATIONAL FLAVOR

If anyone needed further proof that the game has truly gone global, just take a look at this year's eclectic crop of draftees.

GHANA
Ziggy Ansah, DE, BYU
(Lions, 5th overall)

GERMANY
Bjoern Werner, DE, Florida State
(Colts, 24th)

ENGLAND
Menelik Watson, T, Florida State
(Raiders, 42nd)

ESTONIA
Margus Hunt, DE, SMU
(Bengals, 53rd)

AUSTRALIA
Jesse Williams, DT, Alabama
(Seahawks, 137th)

ALMA MATER

Although the SEC dominated by conference, it was another football factory that took the title belt for most players selected.

11	Florida State
9	Alabama
9	LSU
8	Florida
8	Georgia
7	Rutgers
7	South Carolina
6	Notre Dame
6	Oklahoma

Harvin: Donald Miralle/Getty Images; Jordan: AP Photo/Alan Diaz; Te'o: AP Photo/Gregory Bull; Ansah: Leon Halip/Getty Images

ATHLON SPORTS

FANTASY FOOTBALL

POSITION RANKINGS

presented by

QUARTERBACKS	TEAM	BYE
1. Aaron **Rodgers**	GB	4
2. Drew **Brees**	NO	7
3. Tom **Brady**	NE	10
4. Cam **Newton**	CAR	4
5. Peyton **Manning**	DEN	9
6. Matt **Ryan**	ATL	6
7. Colin **Kaepernick**	SF	9
8. Russell **Wilson**	SEA	12
9. Matthew **Stafford**	DET	9
10. Tony **Romo**	DAL	11
11. Andrew **Luck**	IND	8
12. Robert **Griffin III**	WAS	5
13. Eli **Manning**	NYG	9
14. Ben **Roethlisberger**	PIT	5
15. Andy **Dalton**	CIN	12
16. Joe **Flacco**	BAL	8
17. Michael **Vick**	PHI	12
18. Jay **Cutler**	CHI	8
19. Philip **Rivers**	SD	8
20. Sam **Bradford**	STL	11
21. Matt **Schaub**	HOU	8
22. Josh **Freeman**	TB	5
23. Carson **Palmer**	ARI	9
24. Alex **Smith**	KC	10
25. Ryan **Tannehill**	MIA	6
26. Jake **Locker**	TEN	8
27. Christian **Ponder**	MIN	5
28. Matt **Flynn**	OAK	7
29. Brandon **Weeden**	CLE	10
30. Kevin **Kolb**	BUF	12
31. Mark **Sanchez**	NYJ	10
32. Blaine **Gabbert**	JAC	9
33. Chad **Henne**	JAC	9
34. Kirk **Cousins**	WAS	5
35. Ryan **Fitzpatrick**	TEN	8
36. Nick **Foles**	PHI	12

RUNNING BACKS	TEAM	BYE
1. Adrian **Peterson**	MIN	5
2. Arian **Foster**	HOU	8
3. Marshawn **Lynch**	SEA	12
4. Ray **Rice**	BAL	8
5. Jamaal **Charles**	KC	10
6. Doug **Martin**	TB	5
7. C.J. **Spiller**	BUF	12
8. Trent **Richardson**	CLE	10
9. Matt **Forté**	CHI	8
10. LeSean **McCoy**	PHI	12
11. Alfred **Morris**	WAS	5
12. Steven **Jackson**	ATL	6
13. Maurice **Jones-Drew**	JAC	9
14. Stevan **Ridley**	NE	10
15. Chris **Johnson**	TEN	8
16. Frank **Gore**	SF	9
17. David **Wilson**	NYG	9
18. Darren **McFadden**	OAK	7
19. Darren **Sproles**	NO	7
20. Montee **Ball**	DEN	9
21. DeMarco **Murray**	DAL	11
22. Reggie **Bush**	DET	9
23. Ryan **Mathews**	SD	8
24. Vick **Ballard**	IND	8
25. Eddie **Lacy**	GB	4
26. Lamar **Miller**	MIA	6
27. BenJarvus **Green-Ellis**	CIN	12
28. Le'Veon **Bell**	PIT	5
29. Chris **Ivory**	NYJ	10
30. Jonathan **Stewart**	CAR	4
31. Rashard **Mendenhall**	ARI	9
32. Shane **Vereen**	NE	10
33. Isaiah **Pead**	STL	11
34. Andre **Brown**	NYG	9
35. Mark **Ingram**	NO	7
36. Giovani **Bernard**	CIN	12
37. Ryan **Williams**	ARI	9
38. Mikel **Leshoure**	DET	9
39. Johnathan **Franklin**	GB	4
40. Ahmad **Bradshaw**	FA	
41. Bryce **Brown**	PHI	12
42. Bernard **Pierce**	BAL	8
43. Jacquizz **Rodgers**	ATL	6
44. DeAngelo **Williams**	CAR	4
45. Fred **Jackson**	BUF	12
46. Ben **Tate**	HOU	8
47. Shonn **Greene**	TEN	8
48. Willis **McGahee**	DEN	9
49. Daryl **Richardson**	STL	11
50. Danny **Woodhead**	SD	8
51. Jonathan **Dwyer**	PIT	5
52. Michael **Turner**	FA	
53. Rashad **Jennings**	OAK	7
54. Joique **Bell**	DET	9
55. Pierre **Thomas**	NO	7
56. Mike **Goodson**	NYJ	10
57. Isaac **Redman**	PIT	5
58. Robert **Turbin**	SEA	12
59. Cedric **Benson**	FA	
60. Joseph **Randle**	DAL	11
61. Michael **Bush**	CHI	8
62. Ronnie **Hillman**	DEN	9
63. DuJuan **Harris**	GB	4
64. Mike **Tolbert**	CAR	4
65. Ronnie **Brown**	SD	8
66. Felix **Jones**	PHI	9
67. Donald **Brown**	IND	8
68. Justin **Forsett**	JAC	9
69. LaRod **Stephens-Howling**	PIT	5
70. Shaun **Draughn**	KC	10
71. Bilal **Powell**	NYJ	10
72. Marcel **Reece**	OAK	7
73. Daniel **Thomas**	MIA	6
74. LaMichael **James**	SF	9
75. Mike **Gillislee**	MIA	6
76. Toby **Gerhart**	MIN	5
77. Leon **Washington**	NE	10
78. Montario **Hardesty**	CLE	10
79. Andre **Ellington**	ARI	9
80. LeGarrette **Blount**	NE	10

KICKERS	TEAM	BYE
1. Stephen **Gostkowski**	NE	10
2. Blair **Walsh**	MIN	5
3. Matt **Bryant**	ATL	6
4. Phil **Dawson**	SF	9
5. Justin **Tucker**	BAL	8
6. Dan **Bailey**	DAL	11
7. Randy **Bullock**	HOU	8
8. Matt **Prater**	DEN	9
9. Mason **Crosby**	GB	4
10. Garrett **Hartley**	NO	7
11. Steven **Hauschka**	SEA	12
12. Sebastian **Janikowski**	OAK	7
13. Rob **Bironas**	TEN	8
14. Adam **Vinatieri**	IND	8
15. David **Akers**	DET	9
16. Josh **Brown**	NYG	9
17. Greg **Zuerlein**	STL	11
18. Alex **Henery**	PHI	12
19. Ryan **Succop**	KC	10
20. Robbie **Gould**	CHI	8
21. Shaun **Suisham**	PIT	5
22. Shayne **Graham**	CLE	10
23. Nick **Novak**	SD	8
24. Connor **Barth**	TB	5

WIDE RECEIVERS	TEAM	BYE
1. Calvin **Johnson**	DET	9
2. Dez **Bryant**	DAL	11
3. A.J. **Green**	CIN	12
4. Brandon **Marshall**	CHI	8
5. Percy **Harvin**	SEA	12
6. Demaryius **Thomas**	DEN	9
7. Andre **Johnson**	HOU	8
8. Vincent **Jackson**	TB	5
9. Julio **Jones**	ATL	6
10. Randall **Cobb**	GB	4
11. Roddy **White**	ATL	6
12. Larry **Fitzgerald**	ARI	9
13. Victor **Cruz**	NYG	9
14. Marques **Colston**	NO	7
15. Michael **Crabtree**	SF	9
16. Wes **Welker**	DEN	9
17. Reggie **Wayne**	IND	8
18. Jordy **Nelson**	GB	4
19. Steve **Smith**	CAR	4
20. Mike **Wallace**	MIA	6
21. Eric **Decker**	DEN	9
22. Hakeem **Nicks**	NYG	9
23. Danny **Amendola**	NE	10
24. Pierre **Garcon**	WAS	5
25. Torrey **Smith**	BAL	8
26. Dwayne **Bowe**	KC	10
27. Antonio **Brown**	PIT	5
28. Greg **Jennings**	MIN	5
29. Stevie **Johnson**	BUF	12
30. DeSean **Jackson**	PHI	12
31. James **Jones**	GB	4
32. Cecil **Shorts**	JAC	9
33. Tavon **Austin**	STL	11
34. Jeremy **Maclin**	PHI	12
35. Danario **Alexander**	SD	8
36. Mike **Williams**	TB	5
37. Miles **Austin**	DAL	11
38. T.Y. **Hilton**	IND	8
39. Lance **Moore**	NO	7
40. Santonio **Holmes**	NYJ	10
41. Kenny **Britt**	TEN	8
42. Emmanuel **Sanders**	PIT	5
43. Anquan **Boldin**	SF	9
44. Chris **Givens**	STL	11
45. DeAndre **Hopkins**	HOU	8
46. Sidney **Rice**	SEA	12
47. Josh **Gordon**	CLE	10
48. Justin **Blackmon**	JAC	9
49. Brian **Hartline**	MIA	6
50. Kendall **Wright**	TEN	8
51. Denarius **Moore**	OAK	7
52. Andre **Roberts**	ARI	9
53. Malcom **Floyd**	SD	8
54. Michael **Floyd**	ARI	9
55. Davone **Bess**	CLE	10
56. Alshon **Jeffery**	CHI	8
57. Keenan **Allen**	SD	8
58. Rod **Streater**	OAK	7
59. Leonard **Hankerson**	WAS	5
60. Cordarrelle **Patterson**	MIN	5
61. Brandon **LaFell**	CAR	4
62. Jeremy **Kerley**	NYJ	10
63. Jacoby **Jones**	BAL	8
64. Jon **Baldwin**	KC	10
65. Markus **Wheaton**	PIT	5
66. Justin **Hunter**	TEN	8
67. Rueben **Randle**	NYG	9
68. Donnie **Avery**	KC	10
69. Aaron **Dobson**	NE	10
70. Mohamed **Sanu**	CIN	12

TIGHT ENDS	TEAM	BYE
1. Jimmy **Graham**	NO	7
2. Rob **Gronkowski**	NE	10
3. Jason **Witten**	DAL	11
4. Tony **Gonzalez**	ATL	6
5. Vernon **Davis**	SF	9
6. Dennis **Pitta**	BAL	8
7. Kyle **Rudolph**	MIN	5
8. Aaron **Hernandez**	NE	10
9. Owen **Daniels**	HOU	8
10. Greg **Olsen**	CAR	4
11. Jermichael **Finley**	GB	4
12. Antonio **Gates**	SD	8
13. Martellus **Bennett**	CHI	8
14. Brandon **Myers**	NYG	9
15. Jared **Cook**	STL	11
16. Brandon **Pettigrew**	DET	9
17. Dustin **Keller**	MIA	6
18. Fred **Davis**	WAS	5
19. Dwayne **Allen**	IND	8
20. Jordan **Cameron**	CLE	10
21. Jermaine **Gresham**	CIN	12
22. Delanie **Walker**	TEN	8
23. Coby **Fleener**	IND	8
24. Heath **Miller**	PIT	5
25. Tyler **Eifert**	CIN	12
26. Marcedes **Lewis**	JAC	9
27. Brent **Celek**	PHI	12
28. Jacob **Tamme**	DEN	9
29. Zach **Miller**	SEA	12
30. Zach **Ertz**	PHI	12
31. James **Casey**	PHI	12
32. Anthony **Fasano**	KC	10
33. Luke **Stocker**	TB	5
34. Scott **Chandler**	BUF	12
35. David **Paulson**	PIT	5
36. Garrett **Graham**	HOU	8

DEFENSE/SPECIAL TEAMS	BYE
1. **Seahawks**	12
2. **Broncos**	9
3. **Texans**	8
4. **49ers**	9
5. **Bengals**	12
6. **Rams**	11
7. **Bears**	8
8. **Steelers**	5
9. **Chargers**	8
10. **Packers**	4
11. **Falcons**	6
12. **Patriots**	10
13. **Dolphins**	6
14. **Vikings**	5
15. **Giants**	9
16. **Browns**	10
17. **Ravens**	8
18. **Cowboys**	11
19. **Cardinals**	9
20. **Titans**	8
21. **Bills**	12
22. **Eagles**	12
23. **Chiefs**	10
24. **Buccaneers**	5
25. **Jets**	10
26. **Colts**	8
27. **Saints**	7
28. **Lions**	9
29. **Redskins**	5
30. **Panthers**	4
31. **Jaguars**	9
32. **Raiders**	7

good state

better state

Go big, or go home. Save hundreds when you switch your auto insurance to State Farm®. Visit statefarm.com® or call 1-800-STATE-FARM for the biggest savings at the tailgate.

Get to a better State®. Get State Farm.

State Farm®

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, Bloomington, IL

ATHLON SPORTS
FANTASY FOOTBALL

TOP 280 BIG BOARD

presented by State Farm®

THE ULTIMATE 2013 DRAFT DAY CHEAT SHEET

RK	PLAYER, TEAM	POS	BYE
1.	Adrian **Peterson**, MIN	RB	5
2.	Arian **Foster**, HOU	RB	8
3.	Marshawn **Lynch**, SEA	RB	12
4.	Ray **Rice**, BAL	RB	8
5.	Jamaal **Charles**, KC	RB	10
6.	Calvin **Johnson**, DET	WR	9
7.	Doug **Martin**, TB	RB	5
8.	C.J. **Spiller**, BUF	RB	12
9.	Trent **Richardson**, CLE	RB	10
10.	Matt **Forté**, CHI	RB	8
11.	Dez **Bryant**, DAL	WR	11
12.	Aaron **Rodgers**, GB	QB	4
13.	Drew **Brees**, NO	QB	7
14.	A.J. **Green**, CIN	WR	12
15.	Brandon **Marshall**, CHI	WR	8
16.	Percy **Harvin**, SEA	WR	12
17.	Jimmy **Graham**, NO	TE	7
18.	Tom **Brady**, NE	QB	10
19.	LeSean **McCoy**, PHI	RB	12
20.	Alfred **Morris**, WAS	RB	5
21.	Demaryius **Thomas**, DEN	WR	9
22.	Andre **Johnson**, HOU	WR	8
23.	Vincent **Jackson**, TB	WR	5
24.	Julio **Jones**, ATL	WR	6
25.	Randall **Cobb**, GB	WR	4
26.	Roddy **White**, ATL	WR	6
27.	Larry **Fitzgerald**, ARI	WR	9
28.	Steven **Jackson**, ATL	RB	6
29.	Maurice **Jones-Drew**, JAC	RB	9
30.	Stevan **Ridley**, NE	RB	10
31.	Chris **Johnson**, TEN	RB	8
32.	Frank **Gore**, SF	RB	9
33.	Rob **Gronkowski**, NE	TE	10
34.	Jason **Witten**, DAL	TE	11
35.	Tony **Gonzalez**, ATL	TE	6
36.	Cam **Newton**, CAR	QB	4
37.	Peyton **Manning**, DEN	QB	9
38.	Matt **Ryan**, ATL	QB	6
39.	David **Wilson**, NYG	RB	9
40.	Darren **McFadden**, OAK	RB	7
41.	Darren **Sproles**, NO	RB	7
42.	Victor **Cruz**, NYG	WR	9
43.	Marques **Colston**, NO	WR	7
44.	Michael **Crabtree**, SF	WR	9
45.	Wes **Welker**, DEN	WR	9
46.	Reggie **Wayne**, IND	WR	8
47.	Jordy **Nelson**, GB	WR	4
48.	Steve **Smith**, CAR	WR	4
49.	Mike **Wallace**, MIA	WR	6
50.	Colin **Kaepernick**, SF	QB	9
51.	Russell **Wilson**, SEA	QB	12
52.	Montee **Ball**, DEN	RB	9
53.	Eric **Decker**, DEN	WR	9
54.	Hakeem **Nicks**, NYG	WR	9
55.	Danny **Amendola**, NE	WR	10
56.	Pierre **Garcon**, WAS	WR	5
57.	Torrey **Smith**, BAL	WR	8
58.	Dwayne **Bowe**, KC	WR	10
59.	Antonio **Brown**, PIT	WR	5
60.	DeMarco **Murray**, DAL	RB	11
61.	Reggie **Bush**, DET	RB	9
62.	Matthew **Stafford**, DET	QB	9
63.	Tony **Romo**, DAL	QB	11
64.	Andrew **Luck**, IND	QB	8
65.	Vernon **Davis**, SF	TE	9
66.	Dennis **Pitta**, BAL	TE	8
67.	Kyle **Rudolph**, MIN	TE	5
68.	Greg **Jennings**, MIN	WR	5
69.	Stevie **Johnson**, BUF	WR	12
70.	DeSean **Jackson**, PHI	WR	12
71.	Ryan **Mathews**, SD	RB	8
72.	Vick **Ballard**, IND	RB	8
73.	Robert **Griffin III**, WAS	QB	5
74.	Eddie **Lacy**, GB	RB	4
75.	Lamar **Miller**, MIA	RB	6
76.	James **Jones**, GB	WR	4
77.	Cecil **Shorts**, JAC	WR	9
78.	Tavon **Austin**, STL	WR	11
79.	Jeremy **Maclin**, PHI	WR	12
80.	BenJarvus **Green-Ellis**, CIN	RB	12
81.	Le'Veon **Bell**, PIT	RB	5
82.	Eli **Manning**, NYG	QB	9
83.	Ben **Roethlisberger**, PIT	QB	5
84.	Andy **Dalton**, CIN	QB	12
85.	Joe **Flacco**, BAL	QB	8
86.	Aaron **Hernandez**, NE	TE	10
87.	Owen **Daniels**, HOU	TE	8
88.	Greg **Olsen**, CAR	TE	4
89.	Danario **Alexander**, SD	WR	8
90.	Mike **Williams**, TB	WR	5
91.	Chris **Ivory**, NYJ	RB	10
92.	Jonathan **Stewart**, CAR	RB	4
93.	Rashard **Mendenhall**, ARI	RB	9
94.	Miles **Austin**, DAL	WR	11
95.	T.Y. **Hilton**, IND	WR	8
96.	Lance **Moore**, NO	WR	7
97.	Michael **Vick**, PHI	QB	12
98.	Santonio **Holmes**, NYJ	WR	10
99.	Jermichael **Finley**, GB	TE	4
100.	Antonio **Gates**, SD	TE	8
101.	Martellus **Bennett**, CHI	TE	8
102.	Jay **Cutler**, CHI	QB	8
103.	Philip **Rivers**, SD	QB	8
104.	Sam **Bradford**, STL	QB	11
105.	Kenny **Britt**, TEN	WR	8
106.	Emmanuel **Sanders**, PIT	WR	5
107.	Brandon **Myers**, NYG	TE	9
108.	Jared **Cook**, STL	TE	11
109.	Shane **Vereen**, NE	RB	10
110.	Isaiah **Pead**, STL	RB	11
111.	Andre **Brown**, NYG	RB	9
112.	Mark **Ingram**, NO	RB	7
113.	Giovani **Bernard**, CIN	RB	12
114.	Ryan **Williams**, ARI	RB	9
115.	Mikel **Leshoure**, DET	RB	9
116.	Johnathan **Franklin**, GB	RB	4
117.	**Seahawks**	DST	12
118.	Anquan **Boldin**, SF	WR	9
119.	Chris **Givens**, STL	WR	11
120.	DeAndre **Hopkins**, HOU	WR	8
121.	**Broncos**	DST	9
122.	**Texans**	DST	8
123.	**49ers**	DST	9
124.	Sidney **Rice**, SEA	WR	12
125.	Josh **Gordon**, CLE	WR	10
126.	Matt **Schaub**, HOU	QB	8
127.	Josh **Freeman**, TB	QB	5
128.	Carson **Palmer**, ARI	QB	9
129.	Alex **Smith**, KC	QB	10
130.	Justin **Blackmon**, JAC	WR	9
131.	Brian **Hartline**, MIA	WR	6
132.	Kendall **Wright**, TEN	WR	8
133.	**Bengals**	DST	12
134.	Ahmad **Bradshaw**, FA	RB	
135.	Denarius **Moore**, OAK	WR	7
136.	Andre **Roberts**, ARI	WR	9
137.	Bryce **Brown**, PHI	RB	12
138.	Bernard **Pierce**, BAL	RB	8
139.	Jacquizz **Rodgers**, ATL	RB	6
140.	Malcom **Floyd**, SD	WR	8
141.	Michael **Floyd**, ARI	WR	9
142.	Ryan **Tannehill**, MIA	QB	6
143.	Jake **Locker**, TEN	QB	8
144.	Christian **Ponder**, MIN	QB	5
145.	Brandon **Pettigrew**, DET	TE	9
146.	Dustin **Keller**, MIA	TE	6
147.	DeAngelo **Williams**, CAR	RB	4
148.	Fred **Jackson**, BUF	RB	12
149.	Ben **Tate**, HOU	RB	8
150.	Davone **Bess**, CLE	WR	10
151.	Alshon **Jeffery**, CHI	WR	8
152.	Keenan **Allen**, SD	WR	8
153.	Rod **Streater**, OAK	WR	7
154.	**Rams**	DST	11
155.	Fred **Davis**, WAS	TE	5
156.	Dwayne **Allen**, IND	TE	8
157.	**Bears**	DST	8
158.	**Steelers**	DST	5
159.	Matt **Flynn**, OAK	QB	7
160.	Brandon **Weeden**, CLE	QB	10
161.	Kevin **Kolb**, BUF	QB	12
162.	Leonard **Hankerson**, WAS	WR	5
163.	Cordarrelle **Patterson**, MIN	WR	5
164.	Brandon **LaFell**, CAR	WR	4
165.	Jeremy **Kerley**, NYJ	WR	10
166.	**Chargers**	DST	8
167.	Mark **Sanchez**, NYJ	QB	10
168.	Shonn **Greene**, TEN	RB	8
169.	Willis **McGahee**, DEN	RB	9
170.	Daryl **Richardson**, STL	RB	11
171.	Blaine **Gabbert**, JAC	QB	9
172.	Chad **Henne**, JAC	QB	9
173.	**Packers**	DST	4
174.	Jacoby **Jones**, BAL	WR	8
175.	Jon **Baldwin**, KC	WR	10
176.	Jordan **Cameron**, CLE	TE	10
177.	Jermaine **Gresham**, CIN	TE	12
178.	Danny **Woodhead**, SD	RB	8
179.	Jonathan **Dwyer**, PIT	RB	5
180.	**Falcons**	DST	6
181.	Delanie **Walker**, TEN	TE	8
182.	Coby **Fleener**, IND	TE	8
183.	Stephen **Gostkowski**, NE	K	10
184.	Heath **Miller**, PIT	TE	5
185.	Blair **Walsh**, MIN	K	5
186.	Michael **Turner**, FA	RB	
187.	Rashad **Jennings**, OAK	RB	7
188.	Matt **Bryant**, ATL	K	6
189.	Tyler **Eifert**, CIN	TE	12
190.	**Patriots**	DST	10
191.	Kirk **Cousins**, WAS	QB	5
192.	Joique **Bell**, DET	RB	9
193.	Pierre **Thomas**, NO	RB	7
194.	Markus **Wheaton**, PIT	WR	5
195.	Justin **Hunter**, TEN	WR	8
196.	Rueben **Randle**, NYG	WR	9
197.	Donnie **Avery**, KC	WR	10
198.	Aaron **Dobson**, NE	WR	10
199.	Ryan **Fitzpatrick**, TEN	QB	8
200.	Nick **Foles**, PHI	QB	12
201.	Mike **Goodson**, NYJ	RB	10
202.	Isaac **Redman**, PIT	RB	5
203.	Robert **Turbin**, SEA	RB	12
204.	Phil **Dawson**, SF	K	9
205.	Justin **Tucker**, BAL	K	8
206.	**Dolphins**	DST	6
207.	**Vikings**	DST	5
208.	Mohamed **Sanu**, CIN	WR	12
209.	Brian **Quick**, STL	WR	11
210.	Golden **Tate**, SEA	WR	12
211.	Marcedes **Lewis**, JAC	TE	9
212.	Brent **Celek**, PHI	TE	12
213.	Dan **Bailey**, DAL	K	11
214.	Randy **Bullock**, HOU	K	8
215.	Darrius **Heyward-Bey**, IND	WR	8
216.	Andrew **Hawkins**, CIN	WR	12
217.	**Giants**	DST	9
218.	Robert **Woods**, BUF	WR	12
219.	T.J. **Graham**, BUF	WR	12
220.	Cedric **Benson**, FA	RB	
221.	Jacob **Tamme**, DEN	TE	9
222.	Zach **Miller**, SEA	TE	12
223.	**Browns**	DST	10
224.	David **Garrard**, NYJ	QB	10
225.	Shaun **Hill**, DET	QB	9
226.	Ryan **Broyles**, DET	WR	9
227.	Dwayne **Harris**, DAL	WR	11
228.	Zach **Ertz**, PHI	TE	12
229.	James **Casey**, PHI	TE	12
230.	**Ravens**	DST	8
231.	**Cowboys**	DST	11
232	**Cardinals**	DST	9
233.	Dexter **McCluster**, KC	WR	10
234.	Jarius **Wright**, MIN	WR	5
235.	Earl **Bennett**, CHI	WR	8
236.	Joseph **Morgan**, NO	WR	7
237.	Joseph **Randle**, DAL	RB	11
238.	Michael **Bush**, CHI	RB	8
239.	Matt **Prater**, DEN	K	9
240.	Mason **Crosby**, GB	K	4
241.	Garrett **Hartley**, NO	K	7
242.	Steven **Hauschka**, SEA	K	12
243.	Sebastian **Janikowski**, OAK	K	7
244.	Rob **Bironas**, TEN	K	8
245.	Adam **Vinatieri**, IND	K	8
246.	Anthony **Fasano**, KC	TE	10
247.	Luke **Stocker**, TB	TE	5
248.	Ace **Sanders**, JAC	WR	9
249.	Terrance **Williams**, DAL	WR	11
250.	Ronnie **Hillman**, DEN	RB	9
251.	DuJuan **Harris**, GB	RB	4
252.	Mike **Tolbert**, CAR	RB	4
253.	Ronnie **Brown**, SD	RB	8
254.	Stedman **Bailey**, STL	WR	11
255.	Marquess **Wilson**, CHI	WR	8
256.	Jason **Campbell**, CLE	QB	10
257.	Matt **Cassel**, MIN	QB	5
258.	Matt **Hasselbeck**, IND	QB	8
259.	Felix **Jones**, PHI	RB	9
260.	Donald **Brown**, IND	RB	8
261.	EJ **Manuel**, BUF	QB	12
262.	Justin **Forsett**, JAC	RB	9
263.	LaRod **Stephens-Howling**, PIT	RB	5
264.	Shaun **Draughn**, KC	RB	10
265.	Bilal **Powell**, NYJ	RB	10
266.	Marcel **Reece**, OAK	RB	7
267.	Daniel **Thomas**, MIA	RB	6
268.	LaMichael **James**, SF	RB	9
269.	Mike **Gillislee**, MIA	RB	6
270.	Toby **Gerhart**, MIN	RB	5
271.	Leon **Washington**, NE	RB	10
272.	Montario **Hardesty**, CLE	RB	10
273.	Andre **Ellington**, ARI	RB	9
274.	LeGarrette **Blount**, NE	RB	10
275.	Greg **Little**, CLE	WR	10
276.	David **Nelson**, CLE	WR	10
277.	Latavius **Murray**, OAK	RB	7
278.	Mike **James**, TB	RB	5
279.	Zac **Stacy**, STL	RB	11
280.	Kerwynn **Williams**, IND	RB	8

Follow us on twitter For coverage of all things fantasy throughout the season follow **twitter.com/AthlonSports**

TOP 240 with IDPs

presented by

RK	PLAYER, TEAM	POS	BYE
1.	Adrian **Peterson**, MIN	RB	5
2.	Arian **Foster**, HOU	RB	8
3.	Marshawn **Lynch**, SEA	RB	12
4.	Ray **Rice**, BAL	RB	8
5.	Jamaal **Charles**, KC	RB	10
6.	Calvin **Johnson**, DET	WR	9
7.	Doug **Martin**, TB	RB	5
8.	C.J. **Spiller**, BUF	RB	12
9.	Trent **Richardson**, CLE	RB	10
10.	Matt **Forté**, CHI	RB	8
11.	Dez **Bryant**, DAL	WR	11
12.	Aaron **Rodgers**, GB	QB	4
13.	Drew **Brees**, NO	QB	7
14.	A.J. **Green**, CIN	WR	12
15.	Brandon **Marshall**, CHI	WR	8
16.	Percy **Harvin**, SEA	WR	12
17.	Jimmy **Graham**, NO	TE	7
18.	Tom **Brady**, NE	QB	10
19.	LeSean **McCoy**, PHI	RB	12
20.	Alfred **Morris**, WAS	RB	5
21.	Demaryius **Thomas**, DEN	WR	9
22.	Andre **Johnson**, HOU	WR	8
23.	Vincent **Jackson**, TB	WR	5
24.	Julio **Jones**, ATL	WR	6
25.	Randall **Cobb**, GB	WR	4
26.	Roddy **White**, ATL	WR	6
27.	Larry **Fitzgerald**, ARI	WR	9
28.	Steven **Jackson**, ATL	RB	6
29.	Maurice **Jones-Drew**, JAC	RB	9
30.	Stevan **Ridley**, NE	RB	10
31.	Chris **Johnson**, TEN	RB	8
32.	Frank **Gore**, SF	RB	9
33.	Rob **Gronkowski**, NE	TE	10
34.	Jason **Witten**, DAL	TE	11
35.	Tony **Gonzalez**, ATL	TE	6
36.	Cam **Newton**, CAR	QB	4
37.	Peyton **Manning**, DEN	QB	9
38.	Matt **Ryan**, ATL	QB	6
39.	David **Wilson**, NYG	RB	9
40.	Darren **McFadden**, OAK	RB	7
41.	Darren **Sproles**, NO	RB	7
42.	Victor **Cruz**, NYG	WR	9
43.	Marques **Colston**, NO	WR	7
44.	Michael **Crabtree**, SF	WR	9
45.	Wes **Welker**, DEN	WR	9
46.	Reggie **Wayne**, IND	WR	8
47.	Jordy **Nelson**, GB	WR	4
48.	Steve **Smith**, CAR	WR	4
49.	Mike **Wallace**, MIA	WR	6
50.	Colin **Kaepernick**, SF	QB	9
51.	Russell **Wilson**, SEA	QB	12
52.	Montee **Ball**, DEN	RB	9
53.	Eric **Decker**, DEN	WR	9
54.	Hakeem **Nicks**, NYG	WR	9
55.	Danny **Amendola**, NE	WR	10
56.	Pierre **Garcon**, WAS	WR	5
57.	Torrey **Smith**, BAL	WR	8
58.	Dwayne **Bowe**, KC	WR	10
59.	Antonio **Brown**, PIT	WR	5
60.	DeMarco **Murray**, DAL	RB	11
61.	Reggie **Bush**, DET	RB	9
62.	Matthew **Stafford**, DET	QB	9
63.	Tony **Romo**, DAL	QB	11
64.	Andrew **Luck**, IND	QB	8
65.	Vernon **Davis**, SF	TE	9
66.	Dennis **Pitta**, BAL	TE	8
67.	Kyle **Rudolph**, MIN	TE	5
68.	Greg **Jennings**, MIN	WR	5
69.	Stevie **Johnson**, BUF	WR	12
70.	DeSean **Jackson**, PHI	WR	12
71.	Ryan **Mathews**, SD	RB	8
72.	Vick **Ballard**, IND	RB	8
73.	Robert **Griffin III**, WAS	QB	5
74.	Eddie **Lacy**, GB	RB	4
75.	Lamar **Miller**, MIA	RB	6
76.	James **Jones**, GB	WR	4
77.	Cecil **Shorts**, JAC	WR	9
78.	Tavon **Austin**, STL	WR	11
79.	Jeremy **Maclin**, PHI	WR	12
80.	BenJarvus **Green-Ellis**, CIN	RB	12
81.	Le'Veon **Bell**, PIT	RB	5
82.	Eli **Manning**, NYG	QB	9
83.	Ben **Roethlisberger**, PIT	QB	5
84.	Andy **Dalton**, CIN	QB	12
85.	Joe **Flacco**, BAL	QB	8
86.	Aaron **Hernandez**, NE	TE	10
87.	Owen **Daniels**, HOU	TE	8
88.	Greg **Olsen**, CAR	TE	4
89.	Danario **Alexander**, SD	WR	8
90.	Mike **Williams**, TB	WR	5
91.	Chris **Ivory**, NYJ	RB	10
92.	Jonathan **Stewart**, CAR	RB	4
93.	Rashard **Mendenhall**, ARI	RB	9
94.	Miles **Austin**, DAL	WR	11
95.	T.Y. **Hilton**, IND	WR	8
96.	Lance **Moore**, NO	WR	7
97.	J.J. **Watt**, HOU	DL	8
98.	Michael **Vick**, PHI	QB	12
99.	Santonio **Holmes**, NYJ	WR	10
100.	Jermichael **Finley**, GB	TE	4
101.	Antonio **Gates**, SD	TE	8
102.	Martellus **Bennett**, CHI	TE	8
103.	Jay **Cutler**, CHI	QB	8
104.	Philip **Rivers**, SD	QB	8
105.	Sam **Bradford**, STL	QB	11
106.	Jason **Pierre-Paul**, NYG	DL	9
107.	Kenny **Britt**, TEN	WR	8
108.	Emmanuel **Sanders**, PIT	WR	5
109.	Brandon **Myers**, NYG	TE	9
110.	Jared **Cook**, STL	TE	11
111.	DeMarcus **Ware**, DAL	DL	11
112.	Cameron **Wake**, MIA	DL	6
113.	Shane **Vereen**, NE	RB	10
114.	Isaiah **Pead**, STL	RB	11
115.	Andre **Brown**, NYG	RB	9
116.	Mark **Ingram**, NO	RB	7
117.	Giovani **Bernard**, CIN	RB	12
118.	Ryan **Williams**, ARI	RB	9
119.	Mikel **Leshoure**, DET	RB	9
120.	Johnathan **Franklin**, GB	RB	4
121.	**Seahawks**	DST	12
122.	Luke **Kuechly**, CAR	LB	4
123.	Anquan **Boldin**, SF	WR	9
124.	Chris **Givens**, STL	WR	11
125.	DeAndre **Hopkins**, HOU	WR	8
126.	**Broncos**	DST	9
127.	**Texans**	DST	8
128.	**49ers**	DST	9
129.	Jared **Allen**, MIN	DL	5
130.	Sidney **Rice**, SEA	WR	12
131.	Josh **Gordon**, CLE	WR	10
132.	Patrick **Willis**, SF	LB	9
133.	Matt **Schaub**, HOU	QB	8
134.	Josh **Freeman**, TB	QB	5
135.	Carson **Palmer**, ARI	QB	9
136.	Alex **Smith**, KC	QB	10
137.	Mario **Williams**, BUF	DL	12
138.	Elvis **Dumervil**, BAL	DL	8
139.	Justin **Blackmon**, JAC	WR	9
140.	Brian **Hartline**, MIA	WR	6
141.	Kendall **Wright**, TEN	WR	8
142.	**Bengals**	DST	12
143.	James **Laurinaitis**, STL	LB	11
144.	Derrick **Johnson**, KC	LB	10
145.	Ahmad **Bradshaw**, FA	RB	
146.	Calais **Campbell**, ARI	DL	9
147.	Denarius **Moore**, OAK	WR	7
148.	Andre **Roberts**, ARI	WR	9
149.	Morgan **Burnett**, GB	DB	4
150.	Mark **Barron**, TB	DB	5
151.	Bryce **Brown**, PHI	RB	12
152.	Bernard **Pierce**, BAL	RB	8
153.	Jacquizz **Rodgers**, ATL	RB	6
154.	Malcom **Floyd**, SD	WR	8
155.	Michael **Floyd**, ARI	WR	9
156.	Charles **Johnson**, CAR	DL	4
157.	Geno **Atkins**, CIN	DL	12
158.	Ryan **Tannehill**, MIA	QB	6
159.	Jake **Locker**, TEN	QB	8
160.	Christian **Ponder**, MIN	QB	5
161.	NaVorro **Bowman**, SF	LB	9
162.	Lavonte **David**, TB	LB	5
163.	Brandon **Pettigrew**, DET	TE	9
164.	Dustin **Keller**, MIA	TE	6
165.	Osi **Umenyiora**, ATL	DL	6
166.	Von **Miller**, DEN	LB	9
167.	DeAngelo **Williams**, CAR	RB	4
168.	Julius **Peppers**, CHI	DL	8
169.	Fred **Jackson**, BUF	RB	12
170.	Ben **Tate**, HOU	RB	8
171.	Davone **Bess**, CLE	WR	10
172.	Alshon **Jeffery**, CHI	WR	8
173.	Eric **Berry**, KC	DB	10
174.	Keenan **Allen**, SD	WR	8
175.	Rod **Streater**, OAK	WR	7
176.	Paul **Posluszny**, JAC	LB	9
177.	**Rams**	DST	11
178.	Eric **Weddle**, SD	DB	8
179.	Fred **Davis**, WAS	TE	5
180.	Dwayne **Allen**, IND	TE	8
181.	**Bears**	DST	8
182.	**Steelers**	DST	5
183.	Jerod **Mayo**, NE	LB	10
184.	Matt **Flynn**, OAK	QB	7
185.	Brandon **Weeden**, CLE	QB	10
186.	Kevin **Kolb**, BUF	QB	12
187.	Leonard **Hankerson**, WAS	WR	5
188.	Cordarrelle **Patterson**, MIN	WR	5
189.	Robert **Quinn**, STL	DL	11
190.	Corey **Liuget**, SD	DL	8
191.	Brandon **LaFell**, CAR	WR	4
192.	Jeremy **Kerley**, NYJ	WR	10
193.	**Chargers**	DST	8
194.	Harrison **Smith**, MIN	DB	5
195.	Richard **Sherman**, SEA	DB	12
196.	Mark **Sanchez**, NYJ	QB	10
197.	Shonn **Greene**, TEN	RB	8
198.	Cliff **Avril**, SEA	DL	12
199.	Daryl **Washington**, ARI	LB	9
200.	Desmond **Bishop**, GB	LB	4
201.	Willis **McGahee**, DEN	RB	9
202.	Daryl **Richardson**, STL	RB	11
203.	Chandler **Jones**, NE	DL	10
204.	Derrick **Morgan**, TEN	DL	8
205.	Carlos **Dunlap**, CIN	DL	12
206.	Blaine **Gabbert**, JAC	QB	9
207.	Chad **Henne**, JAC	QB	9
208.	**Packers**	DST	4
209.	Sean **Weatherspoon**, ATL	LB	6
210.	D'Qwell **Jackson**, CLE	LB	10
211.	Jacoby **Jones**, BAL	WR	8
212.	Jon **Baldwin**, KC	WR	10
213.	Jordan **Cameron**, CLE	TE	10
214.	Jermaine **Gresham**, CIN	TE	12
215.	Cameron **Jordan**, NO	DL	7
216.	Greg **Hardy**, CAR	DL	4
217.	Danny **Woodhead**, SD	RB	8
218.	Jonathan **Dwyer**, PIT	RB	5
219.	**Falcons**	DST	6
220.	Bobby **Wagner**, SEA	LB	12
221.	Chad **Greenway**, MIN	LB	5
222.	Delanie **Walker**, TEN	TE	8
223.	Coby **Fleener**, IND	TE	8
224.	Stephen **Gostkowski**, NE	K	10
225.	Bernard **Pollard**, TEN	DB	8
226.	Tyvon **Branch**, OAK	DB	7
227.	Cortland **Finnegan**, STL	DB	11
228.	Heath **Miller**, PIT	TE	5
229.	Blair **Walsh**, MIN	K	5
230.	London **Fletcher**, WAS	LB	5
231.	Aldon **Smith**, SF	LB	9
232.	Michael **Turner**, FA	RB	
233.	Rashad **Jennings**, OAK	RB	7
234.	Matt **Bryant**, ATL	K	6
235.	Tyler **Eifert**, CIN	TE	12
236.	**Patriots**	DST	10
237.	Kirk **Cousins**, WAS	QB	5
238.	Joique **Bell**, DET	RB	9
239.	Pierre **Thomas**, NO	RB	7
240.	Markus **Wheaton**, PIT	WR	5

TOP 65 IDPs

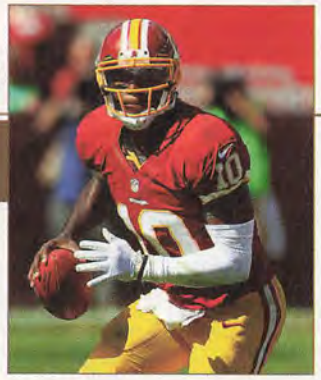
RK	PLAYER, TEAM	POS	BYE
1.	J.J. **Watt**, HOU	DL	8
2.	Jason **Pierre-Paul**, NYG	DL	9
3.	DeMarcus **Ware**, DAL	DL	11
4.	Cameron **Wake**, MIA	DL	6
5.	Luke **Kuechly**, CAR	LB	4
6.	Jared **Allen**, MIN	DL	5
7.	Patrick **Willis**, SF	LB	9
8.	Mario **Williams**, BUF	DL	12
9.	Elvis **Dumervil**, BAL	DL	8
10.	James **Laurinaitis**, STL	LB	11
11.	Derrick **Johnson**, KC	LB	10
12.	Calais **Campbell**, ARI	DL	9
13.	Morgan **Burnett**, GB	DB	4
14.	Mark **Barron**, TB	DB	5
15.	Charles **Johnson**, CAR	DL	4
16.	Geno **Atkins**, CIN	DL	12
17.	NaVorro **Bowman**, SF	LB	9
18.	Lavonte **David**, TB	LB	5
19.	Osi **Umenyiora**, ATL	DL	6
20.	Von **Miller**, DEN	LB	9
21.	Julius **Peppers**, CHI	DL	8
22.	Eric **Berry**, KC	DB	10
23.	Paul **Posluszny**, JAC	LB	9
24.	Eric **Weddle**, SD	DB	8
25.	Jerod **Mayo**, NE	LB	10
26.	Robert **Quinn**, STL	DL	11
27.	Corey **Liuget**, SD	DL	8
28.	Harrison **Smith**, MIN	DB	5
29.	Richard **Sherman**, SEA	DB	12
30.	Cliff **Avril**, SEA	DL	12
31.	Daryl **Washington**, ARI	LB	9
32.	Desmond **Bishop**, GB	LB	4
33.	Chandler **Jones**, NE	DL	10
34.	Derrick **Morgan**, TEN	DL	8
35.	Carlos **Dunlap**, CIN	DL	12
36.	Sean **Weatherspoon**, ATL	LB	6
37.	D'Qwell **Jackson**, CLE	LB	10
38.	Cameron **Jordan**, NO	DL	7
39.	Greg **Hardy**, CAR	DL	4
40.	Bobby **Wagner**, SEA	LB	12
41.	Chad **Greenway**, MIN	LB	5
42.	Bernard **Pollard**, TEN	DB	8
43.	Tyvon **Branch**, OAK	DB	7
44.	Cortland **Finnegan**, STL	DB	11
45.	London **Fletcher**, WAS	LB	5
46.	Aldon **Smith**, SF	LB	9
47.	Haloti **Ngata**, BAL	DL	8
48.	Anthony **Spencer**, DAL	DL	11
49.	Wesley **Woodyard**, DEN	LB	9
50.	Rob **Ninkovich**, NE	DL	10
51.	Arthur **Brown**, BAL	LB	8
52.	LaRon **Landry**, IND	DB	8
53.	Antoine **Bethea**, IND	DB	8
54.	Lawrence **Timmons**, PIT	LB	5
55.	Charles **Tillman**, CHI	DB	8
56.	Janoris **Jenkins**, STL	DB	11
57.	Brian **Robison**, MIN	DL	5
58.	Chris **Long**, STL	DL	11
59.	Patrick **Peterson**, ARI	DB	9
60.	Zach **Brown**, TEN	LB	8
61.	Brian **Cushing**, HOU	LB	8
62.	Curtis **Lofton**, NO	LB	7
63.	Lamarr **Houston**, OAK	DL	7
64.	Sean **Lee**, DAL	LB	11
65.	Terrell **Suggs**, BAL	LB	8

2013 RANKINGS

presented by State Farm®

QB 2013 QUARTERBACK FANTASY RANKINGS »

Top 10 Injury Concerns



Robert Griffin III, WAS The second-year signal-caller takes over as the NFL's most brittle after multiple knee injuries in his first season — including the same ACL he tore while at Baylor in 2009.

Michael Vick, PHI No quarterback in the league takes more hits than Vick, and since he refuses to adapt his style of play, he continues to miss big chunks of time. Vick has started all 16 games only once in his career (2006).

Jake Locker, TEN His excellent overall athletic ability and fearless style of play have gotten him into trouble for years. He made only 11 starts last year after a track record of injuries as a college QB at Washington.

Ben Roethlisberger, PIT The big fella hasn't started all 16 games in a season since 2008, missing eight starts in the last three seasons for various minor maladies.

Jay Cutler, CHI Hasn't started all 16 games since 2009, so the long-term effects of playing behind a poor O-line may be taking a toll. He has taken 113 sacks over the last three years.

Matt Schaub, HOU This is more of a general warning as he has started all 16 games just twice in a nine-year career. However, he has started at least 15 in three of the last four.

Matthew Stafford, DET Missed one start last year, meaning he has just one pro season of 16 games started (2011). His early injury issues might have been flukish.

Sam Bradford, STL The former No. 1 pick bounced back with 16 starts and career highs in yards and touchdowns. Injury-prone warning label hasn't been shed just yet, however.

Tony Romo, DAL He has played in all 16 games just four times in his career. He is as tough as they come and hasn't missed a game in two years, but his O-line and running game offer little protection.

Colin Kaepernick, SF The dynamic dual-threat hasn't dealt with any major injuries in his career, but his mobile, athletic style of play presents a risk.

Average Depth of Throw

by Mike Clay, Pro Football Focus Fantasy Managing Editor, @MikeClayNFL

At Pro Football Focus, our game analysts are constantly creating new statistical categories in hopes of maximizing the viewing public's understanding of the game. Back in 2008, we began tracking the depth of each pass. When examining quarterback tendencies, many will refer to Yards-Per-Attempt, but it's important to realize that "YPA" can be severely distorted by completion percentage and YAC (yards after catch). This is where Average Depth of Throw (aDOT) comes into play. Proven to be significantly more predictable on a year-to-year basis, aDOT only tracks the distance downfield each pass travels before it is complete, incomplete, or intercepted. Quarterbacks with high aDOT marks generally take more chances, which will lead to more of the coveted big plays, but also to a lower completion rate and additional interceptions. Quarterbacks with lower aDOT tendencies are more conservative, settling on short completions, while avoiding costly interceptions.

Shown here are the aDOT marks for each quarterback who dropped back to pass at least 100 times during the 2012 season. To maximize our sample size, playoff data is included.

Rk	Quarterback	Team	DB	aDOT
1.	Colin Kaepernick	SF	355	10.7
2.	Josh Freeman	TB	603	10.7
3.	**Andrew Luck**	**IND**	**764**	**10.7**
4.	Joe Flacco	BAL	705	10.6
5.	Jay Cutler	CHI	496	10.4
6.	Russell Wilson	SEA	554	10.3
7.	Eli Manning	NYG	564	10.1
8.	Jake Locker	TEN	370	10.0
9.	Cam Newton	CAR	555	9.8
10.	Mark Sanchez	NYJ	496	9.4
11.	Chad Henne	MIA	348	9.4
12.	Michael Vick	PHI	418	9.2
13.	Andy Dalton	CIN	628	9.1
14.	Matt Cassel	KC	313	9.0
15.	Tony Romo	DAL	693	9.0
16.	Tom Brady	NE	766	9.0
17.	Drew Brees	NO	699	8.9
18.	Matthew Stafford	DET	776	8.9
19.	Ryan Tannehill	MIA	532	8.8
20.	Ben Roethlisberger	PIT	492	8.8
21.	Sam Bradford	STL	605	8.8
22.	**Matt Ryan**	**ATL**	**743**	**8.8**
23.	Ryan Lindley	ARZ	184	8.7
24.	Carson Palmer	OAK	595	8.6
25.	Peyton Manning	DEN	655	8.6
26.	Robert Griffin III	WAS	488	8.5
27.	Brady Quinn	KC	231	8.4
28.	Aaron Rodgers	GB	720	8.3
29.	Blaine Gabbert	JAC	309	8.2
30.	Matt Hasselbeck	TEN	241	8.1
31.	John Skelton	ARI	218	8.1
32.	Brandon Weeden	CLE	559	8.0
33.	Kevin Kolb	ARI	217	7.9
34.	Ryan Fitzpatrick	BUF	566	7.9
35.	Matt Schaub	HOU	665	7.8
36.	Nick Foles	PHI	292	7.8
37.	Philip Rivers	SD	587	7.8
38.	Alex D. Smith	SF	256	7.7
39.	Christian Ponder	MIN	555	6.8

Rk	Player	Team	Bye
1.	Aaron Rodgers	GB	4
2.	Drew Brees	NO	7
3.	Tom Brady	NE	10
4.	Cam Newton	CAR	4
5.	Peyton Manning	DEN	9
6.	Matt Ryan	ATL	6
7.	Colin Kaepernick	SF	9
8.	Russell Wilson	SEA	12
9.	Matthew Stafford	DET	9
10.	Tony Romo	DAL	11
11.	Andrew Luck	IND	8
12.	Robert Griffin III	WAS	5
13.	Eli Manning	NYG	9
14.	Ben Roethlisberger	PIT	5
15.	Andy Dalton	CIN	12
16.	Joe Flacco	BAL	8
17.	Michael Vick	PHI	12
18.	Jay Cutler	CHI	8
19.	Philip Rivers	SD	8
20.	Sam Bradford	STL	11
21.	Matt Schaub	HOU	8
22.	Josh Freeman	TB	5
23.	Carson Palmer	ARI	9
24.	Alex Smith	KC	10
25.	Ryan Tannehill	MIA	6
26.	Jake Locker	TEN	8
27.	Christian Ponder	MIN	5
28.	Matt Flynn	OAK	7
29.	Brandon Weeden	CLE	10
30.	Kevin Kolb	BUF	12
31.	Mark Sanchez	NYJ	10
32.	Blaine Gabbert	JAC	9
33.	Chad Henne	JAC	9
34.	Kirk Cousins	WAS	5
35.	Ryan Fitzpatrick	TEN	8
36.	Nick Foles	PHI	12
37.	David Garrard	NYJ	10
38.	Shaun Hill	DET	9
39.	Jason Campbell	CLE	10
40.	Matt Cassel	MIN	5
41.	Matt Hasselbeck	IND	8
42.	EJ Manuel	BUF	12
43.	Drew Stanton	ARI	9
44.	T.J. Yates	HOU	8
45.	Ryan Mallett	NE	10
46.	Bruce Gradkowski	PIT	5
47.	Terrelle Pryor	OAK	7
48.	Kyle Orton	DAL	11
49.	Matt Moore	MIA	6
50.	Geno Smith	NYJ	10

Griffin: Athlon Sports; Ryan: Peter Brouillet; Luck: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

2013 RANKINGS

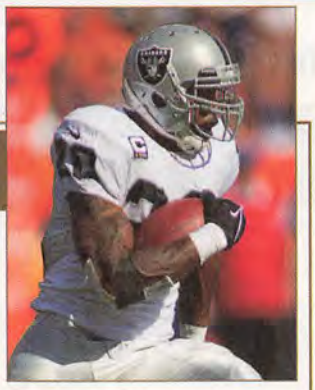
presented by

StateFarm®

RB

2013 RUNNING BACK FANTASY RANKINGS »

Top 10 Injury Concerns



Darren McFadden, OAK The explosive back has a long track record of serious injuries. He has started no more than 13 games in any season and more than seven only twice (2010, 2012).

DeMarco Murray, DAL The do-everything dynamo dealt with major injury concerns at Oklahoma and has continued that trend in two pro seasons. He's missed nine games over that span.

Ryan Mathews, SD The brittle back has missed four, two and four games in his three NFL seasons. His injuries aren't always big season-enders, but Mathews never seems to be completely healthy.

Maurice Jones-Drew, JAC The workload argument is a big part of MJD's fantasy evaluation. After leading the NFL with 343 carries in 2011, he missed 10 games in 2012 due to a major foot injury.

Ahmad Bradshaw, Free Agent The talented runner played 14 games last season but dealt with a foot issue throughout. He's missed six games over the last two seasons combined and always seems to be nursing something.

LeSean McCoy, PHI A heavy workload and small stature might always make McCoy an injury risk. He missed four games last year and hasn't played in all 16 since his rookie year (2009).

Jamaal Charles, KC The Chiefs' back has played in at least 15 games in four of his five seasons. He missed all but one game in 2011, however, with a serious knee injury. For the smallish back, durability may also be an issue.

Frank Gore, SF The veteran tailback started 16 games last year for the first time since 2006 and will be 30 this season. When will the heavy workload — 585 touches the last two years — take its toll?

Eddie Lacy, GB One of the top fantasy rookie backs dropped in the NFL Draft due to durability concerns. Multiple lingering injuries plagued him at Alabama, and Lacy needs to prove that it won't be an issue in the NFL.

Adrian Peterson, MIN "All-Day" has to be mentioned on this list despite his super-human immune system. His running style will always be extremely violent and could always lead to injury.

Workload Watch

Touches per Game, 3-Year vs. 2-Year

3-Year Stats	TPG	TCH	GP
1. Arian Foster	24.8	1,115	45
2. Maurice Jones-Drew	22.8	819	36
3. Ray Rice	22.0	1,055	48
4. Adrian Peterson	21.7	933	43
5. Steven Jackson	20.7	973	47
6. Chris Johnson	20.6	991	48
7. Darren McFadden	20.6	660	32
8. LeSean McCoy	20.5	860	42
9. Cedric Benson	20.1	722	36
10. Frank Gore	19.4	835	43
11. Matt Forté	19.4	835	43
12. Michael Turner	18.9	906	48
13. Ahmad Bradshaw	18.4	772	42
14. Jamaal Charles	18.0	611	34
15. Marshawn Lynch	17.8	838	47

2-Year Stats	TPG	TCH	GP
1. Arian Foster	24.9	722	29
2. Maurice Jones-Drew	22.1	486	22
3. Adrian Peterson	21.9	614	28
4. Ray Rice	21.4	685	32
5. LeSean McCoy	21.3	575	27
6. Marshawn Lynch	21.0	651	31
7. Darren McFadden	20.5	390	19
8. Matt Forté	20.3	547	27
9. Chris Johnson	19.7	631	32
10. Steven Jackson	19.3	597	31
11. Ryan Mathews	19.0	495	26
12. Jamaal Charles	18.7	336	18
13. Cedric Benson	18.7	373	20
14. Frank Gore	18.3	586	32
15. Willis McGahee	18.2	454	25

Rk	Player	Team	Bye
1.	Adrian Peterson	MIN	5
2.	Arian Foster	HOU	8
3.	Marshawn Lynch	SEA	12
4.	Ray Rice	BAL	8
5.	Jamaal Charles	KC	10
6.	Doug Martin	TB	5
7.	C.J. Spiller	BUF	12
8.	Trent Richardson	CLE	10
9.	Matt Forté	CHI	8
10.	LeSean McCoy	PHI	12
11.	Alfred Morris	WAS	5
12.	Steven Jackson	ATL	6
13.	Maurice Jones-Drew	JAC	9
14.	Stevan Ridley	NE	10
15.	Chris Johnson	TEN	8
16.	Frank Gore	SF	9
17.	David Wilson	NYG	9
18.	Darren McFadden	OAK	7
19.	Darren Sproles	NO	7
20.	Montee Ball	DEN	9
21.	DeMarco Murray	DAL	11
22.	Reggie Bush	DET	9
23.	Ryan Mathews	SD	8
24.	Vick Ballard	IND	8
25.	Eddie Lacy	GB	4
26.	Lamar Miller	MIA	6
27.	BenJarvus Green-Ellis	CIN	12
28.	Le'Veon Bell	PIT	5
29.	Chris Ivory	NYJ	10
30.	Jonathan Stewart	CAR	4
31.	Rashard Mendenhall	ARI	9
32.	Shane Vereen	NE	10
33.	Isaiah Pead	STL	11
34.	Andre Brown	NYG	9
35.	Mark Ingram	NO	7
36.	Giovani Bernard	CIN	12
37.	Ryan Williams	ARI	9
38.	Mikel Leshoure	DET	9
39.	Johnathan Franklin	GB	4
40.	Ahmad Bradshaw	FA	
41.	Bryce Brown	PHI	12
42.	Bernard Pierce	BAL	8
43.	Jacquizz Rodgers	ATL	6
44.	DeAngelo Williams	CAR	4
45.	Fred Jackson	BUF	12
46.	Ben Tate	HOU	8
47.	Shonn Greene	TEN	8
48.	Willis McGahee	DEN	9
49.	Daryl Richardson	STL	11
50.	Danny Woodhead	SD	8
51.	Jonathan Dwyer	PIT	5
52.	Michael Turner	FA	
53.	Rashad Jennings	OAK	7
54.	Joique Bell	DET	9
55.	Pierre Thomas	NO	7
56.	Mike Goodson	NYJ	10
57.	Isaac Redman	PIT	5
58.	Robert Turbin	SEA	12
59.	Cedric Benson	FA	
60.	Joseph Randle	DAL	11
61.	Michael Bush	CHI	8
62.	Ronnie Hillman	DEN	9
63.	DuJuan Harris	GB	4
64.	Mike Tolbert	CAR	4
65.	Ronnie Brown	SD	8
66.	Felix Jones	PHI	12
67.	Donald Brown	IND	8
68.	Justin Forsett	JAC	9
69.	LaRod Stephens-Howling	PIT	5
70.	Shaun Draughn	KC	10
71.	Bilal Powell	NYJ	10
72.	Marcel Reece	OAK	7
73.	Daniel Thomas	MIA	6
74.	LaMichael James	SF	9
75.	Mike Gillislee	MIA	6

McFadden: Peter Brouillet; Charles, Peter G. Aiken/Getty Images

2013 RANKINGS

presented by State Farm®

WR

2013 WIDE RECEIVER FANTASY RANKINGS »

Top 10 Injury Concerns

Percy Harvin, SEA Injuries have been a part of Harvin's game dating back to his college days at Florida. He has had migraine issues for years, and now he is recovering from an ankle injury that forced him to miss the final seven games of the '12 regular season and the playoffs.

Danny Amendola, NE The new Patriots receiver might be the most brittle wideout in the game today. He has missed 20 games over the last two seasons, and his small stature won't do anything to help.

DeSean Jackson, PHI Much like the other smallish wideouts, Jackson has a long track record of nagging injuries. But now he is returning from a severe rib injury that cost him the last five games of 2012.

Greg Jennings, MIN After three straight seasons with 16 starts, Jennings has battled issues over the last two years and is turning 30 in September. He's missed 11 games the last two years.

Hakeem Nicks, NYG The Giants' star hasn't missed large chunks of time but always seems to be battling some malady. He's been sidelined for nine games in four years.

Kenny Britt, TEN Boneheaded off-the-field issues aside, Britt clearly isn't the same player as he was prior to his major knee injury in 2011. The oft-injured receiver has missed 19 games over the last three years.

Jeremy Maclin, PHI There is a reason his yardage totals have dropped three straight seasons. He's missed only four games the last two years but is constantly battling minor issues — which has impacted his productivity in a big way.

Pierre Garcon, WAS Other than his 16-game breakout 2011 season, Garcon hasn't played a full NFL season. He was out of the lineup for six games two separate stretches a year ago — Weeks 2-3 and 6-9.

Sidney Rice, SEA The Seahawks' pass-catcher played just his second 16-game season in his six-year career last fall. Prior to 2012, however, Rice played just nine and six games in 2011 and 2010, respectively.

Ryan Broyles, DET The all-time receptions leader in FBS history missed the final month of his college career with a torn left ACL. And then he missed six games as a rookie last fall after tearing his right ACL. Beware.

Average Depth of Target

by Mike Clay, Pro Football Focus Fantasy Managing Editor, @MikeClayNFL

Tracked by our game analysts at Pro Football Focus, Average Depth of Target (aDOT) is a better method of tracking the way NFL pass-catchers are utilized. Basically an improved version of the popular and mainstream Yards-Per-Reception (YPR) statistic, aDOT removes volatile YAC (yards after catch) from the equation, instead focusing only on the average distance the player is downfield on each target. Because we're analyzing targets and not receptions, our sample size nearly doubles, which is key in developing predictable statistics. Consider that during the 2012 season, 57 percent of YPR could be predicted solely on the player's previous year aDOT. Compare that to 46 percent for YPR. Furthermore, aDOT can be predicted with 80 percent confidence from one year to the next, compared to just 46 percent for YPR. The fact is: aDOT is predictable, while YPR is not. This season, when your leaguemates are gushing over Joe Schmo's 23.5 YPR thanks to one, fluky bubble screen gone right, you'll see his 5.0 aDOT and know he's not the deep threat he appears to be.

Shown here are the Top 20 and Bottom 20 aDOT marks from the 2012 season. Only wide receivers with 40-plus targets are shown, and playoff data is included.

Rk	Receiver	Team	Targ	aDOT
1.	Torrey Smith	BAL	128	19.5
2.	Vincent Jackson	SD	137	16.9
3.	Alshon Jeffery	CHI	48	16.6
4.	Jonathan Baldwin	KC	46	16.5
5.	Devery Henderson	NO	44	16.2
6.	Louis Murphy	CAR	55	16.2
7.	Randy Moss	SF	60	15.5
8.	DeSean Jackson	PHI	75	15.5
9.	Chris Givens	STL	77	15.5
10.	Jacoby Jones	BAL	59	15.0
11.	Malcom Floyd	SD	82	14.5
12.	Mike A. Williams	TB	120	14.4
13.	Mike Wallace	PIT	116	14.4
14.	Stephen Hill	NYJ	46	14.3
15.	**A.J. Green**	**CIN**	**168**	**14.2**
16.	Sidney Rice	SEA	85	14.2
17.	Darrius Heyward-Bey	OAK	77	14.1
18.	Lance Moore	NO	100	14.1
19.	Kevin Ogletree	DAL	55	13.9
20.	Nate Washington	TEN	86	13.9

Rk	Receiver	Team	Targ	aDOT
100.	Percy Harvin	MIN	81	4.3
99.	Dexter McCluster	KC	70	5.4
98.	Early Doucet	ARI	51	5.5
97.	Andrew Hawkins	CIN	77	6.0
96.	Kendall Wright	TEN	95	6.5
95.	Randall Cobb	GB	110	7.4
94.	Nate Burleson	DET	41	7.5
93.	Eddie Royal	SD	42	7.6
92.	Wes Welker	NE	191	7.7
91.	Josh Morgan	WAS	76	7.8
90.	Earl Bennett	CHI	47	7.8
89.	Danny Amendola	STL	94	7.8
88.	Michael Crabtree	SF	146	7.9
87.	Armon Binns	CIN/MIA	40	8.8
86.	Santana Moss	WAS	64	9.2
85.	Mario Manningham	SF	55	9.2
84.	Donald Jones	BUF	62	9.3
83.	Damian Williams	TEN	45	9.4
82.	Harry Douglas	ATL	62	9.5
81.	Jason Avant	PHI	71	9.7

Rk	Player	Team	Bye
1.	Calvin Johnson	DET	9
2.	Dez Bryant	DAL	11
3.	A.J. Green	CIN	12
4.	Brandon Marshall	CHI	8
5.	Percy Harvin	SEA	12
6.	Demaryius Thomas	DEN	9
7.	Andre Johnson	HOU	8
8.	Vincent Jackson	TB	5
9.	Julio Jones	ATL	6
10.	Randall Cobb	GB	4
11.	Roddy White	ATL	6
12.	Larry Fitzgerald	ARI	9
13.	Victor Cruz	NYG	9
14.	Marques Colston	NO	7
15.	Michael Crabtree	SF	9
16.	Wes Welker	DEN	9
17.	Reggie Wayne	IND	8
18.	Jordy Nelson	GB	4
19.	Steve Smith	CAR	4
20.	Mike Wallace	MIA	6
21.	Eric Decker	DEN	9
22.	Hakeem Nicks	NYG	9
23.	Danny Amendola	NE	10
24.	Pierre Garcon	WAS	5
25.	Torrey Smith	BAL	8
26.	Dwayne Bowe	KC	10
27.	Antonio Brown	PIT	5
28.	Greg Jennings	MIN	5
29.	Stevie Johnson	BUF	12
30.	DeSean Jackson	PHI	12
31.	James Jones	GB	4
32.	Cecil Shorts	JAC	9
33.	Tavon Austin	STL	11
34.	Jeremy Maclin	PHI	12
35.	Danario Alexander	SD	8
36.	Mike Williams	TB	5
37.	Miles Austin	DAL	11
38.	T.Y. Hilton	IND	8
39.	Lance Moore	NO	7
40.	Santonio Holmes	NYJ	10
41.	Kenny Britt	TEN	8
42.	Emmanuel Sanders	PIT	5
43.	Anquan Boldin	SF	9
44.	Chris Givens	STL	11
45.	DeAndre Hopkins	HOU	8
46.	Sidney Rice	SEA	12
47.	Josh Gordon	CLE	10
48.	Justin Blackmon	JAC	9
49.	Brian Hartline	MIA	6
50.	Kendall Wright	TEN	8
51.	Denarius Moore	OAK	7
52.	Andre Roberts	ARI	9
53.	Malcom Floyd	SD	8
54.	Michael Floyd	ARI	9
55.	Davone Bess	CLE	10
56.	Alshon Jeffery	CHI	8
57.	Keenan Allen	SD	8
58.	Rod Streater	OAK	7
59.	Leonard Hankerson	WAS	5
60.	Cordarrelle Patterson	MIN	5
61.	Brandon LaFell	CAR	4
62.	Jeremy Kerley	NYJ	10
63.	Jacoby Jones	BAL	8
64.	Jon Baldwin	KC	10
65.	Markus Wheaton	PIT	5
66.	Justin Hunter	TEN	8
67.	Rueben Randle	NYG	9
68.	Donnie Avery	KC	10
69.	Aaron Dobson	NE	10
70.	Mohamed Sanu	CIN	12
71.	Brian Quick	STL	11
72.	Golden Tate	SEA	12
73.	Darrius Heyward-Bey	IND	8
74.	Andrew Hawkins	CIN	12
75.	Robert Woods	BUF	12

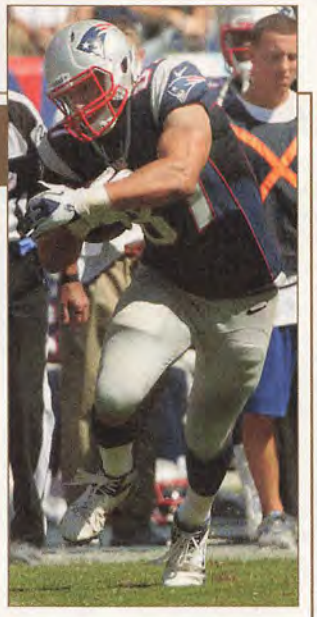
Harvin: Stephen Brashear/Getty Images; Green: Athlon Sports

TE

2013 TIGHT END FANTASY RANKINGS »

Rk	Player	Team	Bye
1.	Jimmy Graham	NO	7
2.	Rob Gronkowski	NE	10
3.	Jason Witten	DAL	11
4.	Tony Gonzalez	ATL	6
5.	Vernon Davis	SF	9
6.	Dennis Pitta	BAL	8
7.	Kyle Rudolph	MIN	5
8.	Aaron Hernandez	NE	10
9.	Owen Daniels	HOU	8
10.	Greg Olsen	CAR	4
11.	Jermichael Finley	GB	4
12.	Antonio Gates	SD	8
13.	Martellus Bennett	CHI	8
14.	Brandon Myers	NYG	9
15.	Jared Cook	STL	11
16.	Brandon Pettigrew	DET	9
17.	Dustin Keller	MIA	6
18.	Fred Davis	WAS	5
19.	Dwayne Allen	IND	8
20.	Jordan Cameron	CLE	10
21.	Jermaine Gresham	CIN	12
22.	Delanie Walker	TEN	8
23.	Coby Fleener	IND	8
24.	Heath Miller	PIT	5
25.	Tyler Eifert	CIN	12
26.	Marcedes Lewis	JAC	9
27.	Brent Celek	PHI	12
28.	Jacob Tamme	DEN	9
29.	Zach Miller	SEA	12
30.	Zach Ertz	PHI	12
31.	James Casey	PHI	12
32.	Anthony Fasano	KC	10
33.	Luke Stocker	TB	5
34.	Scott Chandler	BUF	12
35.	David Paulson	PIT	5
36.	Garrett Graham	HOU	8
37.	Rob Housler	ARI	9
38.	Jordan Reed	WAS	5
39.	Travis Kelce	KC	10
40.	Jeff Cumberland	NYJ	10

Top 10 Injury Concerns



Rob Gronkowski, NE His reckless, physical nature — on and off the field — will always make Gronk an injury risk. The fact that he has undergone multiple surgeries on an infected broken forearm is a red flag.

Fred Davis, WAS When he is on the field, he is dangerous, but a nasty Achilles injury ended his season in Week 7 last year. Davis has played in only 19 of 32 possible games the last two years (four of those missed games were due to suspension).

Antonio Gates, SD Aging vet bounced back with 15 starts last year but is turning 33 this season and has missed 10 games over the last three seasons.

Aaron Hernandez, NE Offseason shoulder surgery isn't expected to impact the '13 season, but the versatile tight end has missed 10 games in his first three seasons, so there is cause for pause.

Dustin Keller, MIA After four seasons of playing in all 16 games to start his career, Keller missed eight games last year with a serious ankle injury. Now in Miami, he needs to prove he can return to form.

Owen Daniels, HOU The injury-prone tight end had one of his best seasons last year but will turn 31 in November. Was last year the exception or the new rule?

Tony Gonzalez, ATL Gonzo hasn't missed a game since 2006, but he turned 37 in January, and the tank has to be nearing empty.

Brandon Pettigrew, DET The Lions' tight end began his career by missing five games as a rookie. He then missed the final two games of the season last year with an ankle issue.

Heath Miller, PIT The underrated Pittsburgh tight end has never started fewer than 14 games in any of his eight NFL seasons. Yet, he will be 31 this fall and is recovering from a torn ACL.

Jermichael Finley, GB He's played in all 32 games the last two seasons but doesn't exude toughness or dependability. He missed 14 games combined in 2009 and 2010.

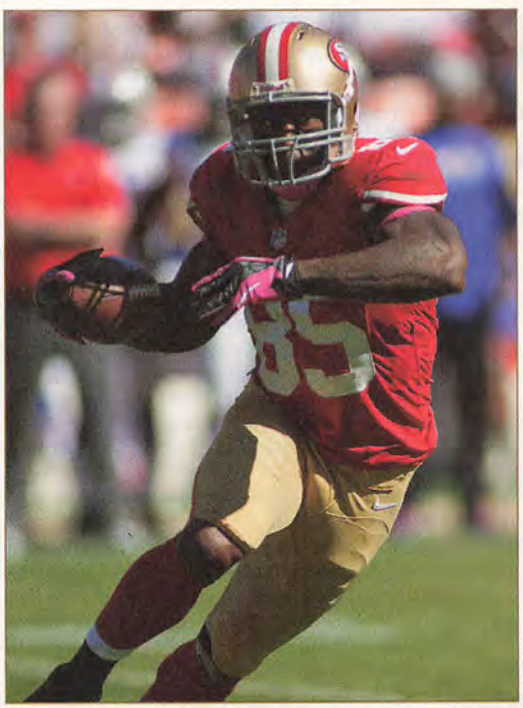
Average Depth of Target

by Mike Clay, Pro Football Focus Fantasy Managing Editor, @MikeClayNFL

Tracked by our game analysts at Pro Football Focus, Average Depth of Target (aDOT) is a better method of tracking the way NFL pass-catchers are utilized. Basically an improved version of the popular and mainstream Yards-Per-Reception (YPR) statistic, aDOT removes volatile YAC (yards after catch) from the equation, instead focusing only on the average distance the player is downfield on each target. Because we're analyzing targets and not receptions, our sample size nearly doubles, which is key in developing predictable statistics. Consider that during the 2012 season, 57 percent of YPR could be predicted solely on the player's previous year aDOT. Compare that to 46 percent for YPR. Furthermore, aDOT can be predicted with 80 percent confidence from one year to the next, compared to just 46 percent for YPR. The fact is: aDOT is predictable, while YPR is not. This season, when looking for a bye week fill-in, bold owners can take a chance on a tight end with a high aDOT in hopes of a big play or two. Risk averse owners in PPR formats can nag a big man with a low aDOT, and thus higher catch potential.

Shown here are the aDOT marks for each tight end targeted at least 40 times during the 2012 season. To maximize our sample size, playoff data is included.

Rk	Tight End	Tm	Targ	aDOT
1.	**Vernon Davis**	**SF**	**75**	**13.1**
2.	Tony Scheffler	DET	83	13.0
3.	Delanie Walker	SF	48	12.5
4.	Kellen Davis	CHI	44	11.9
5.	Antonio Gates	SD	76	11.5
6.	Rob Gronkowski	NE	78	10.8
7.	Tony Moeaki	KC	49	10.6
8.	Martellus Bennett	NYG	88	10.4
9.	Jeff Cumberland	NYJ	52	9.9
10.	Greg Olsen	CAR	96	9.8
11.	Scott Chandler	BUF	70	9.7
12.	Jared Cook	TEN	68	9.0
13.	Jimmy Graham	NO	131	8.8
14.	Coby Fleener	IND	50	8.8
15.	Dennis Pitta	BAL	109	8.6
16.	Jacob Tamme	DEN	83	8.6
17.	Jason Witten	DAL	146	8.2
18.	Tony Gonzalez	ATL	136	8.2
19.	Jermichael Finley	GB	93	8.2
20.	Zach J. Miller	SEA	61	8.1
21.	Dallas Clark	TB	69	8.0
22.	Anthony Fasano	MIA	61	7.8
23.	Heath Miller	PIT	93	7.7
24.	Owen Daniels	HOU	123	7.7
25.	Aaron Hernandez	NE	102	7.4
26.	Lance Kendricks	STL	57	7.3
27.	Marcedes Lewis	JAC	75	7.3
28.	Brent Celek	PHI	83	7.2
29.	Rob Housler	ARI	65	7.2
30.	Brandon Myers	OAK	101	7.1
31.	Jermaine Gresham	CIN	99	7.0
32.	Ben Watson	CLE	74	6.9
33.	Dwayne Allen	IND	70	6.9
34.	Brandon Pettigrew	DET	95	6.6
35.	Kyle Rudolph	MIN	89	6.4
36.	Joel Dreessen	DEN	64	6.2
37.	Garrett Graham	HOU	40	5.1



Gronkowski: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Davis: Peter Brouillet

presented by
State Farm®

DST

2013 DEFENSE/SPECIAL TEAMS FANTASY RANKINGS »

Going Up, Going Down

1. BENGALS » The Bengals' defense finished fifth in fantasy points last year, and this unit can only get better in 2013. Linebacker Manny Lawson was the only significant departure, but Cincinnati replaced him with ex-Steeler James Harrison. The defensive line ranks as one of the best in the NFL, and 6'8" rookie Margus Hunt should add depth and size to a pass rush that registered 51 sacks in 2012. The secondary is deeper thanks to the addition of safety Shawn Williams via the draft, and cornerback Dre Kirkpatrick, the Bengals' first-round pick last year, is ready to contribute after an injury-riddled debut season.

2. DOLPHINS » In an effort to close the gap with the Patriots in the AFC East, the Dolphins opened the checkbook this offseason. Linebackers Dannell Ellerbe and Philip Wheeler and cornerback Brent Grimes were brought in to upgrade a defense that finished 21st in the NFL in yards allowed and forced only 16 takeaways last year. The Dolphins also drafted defensive end Dion Jordan with the No. 3 overall pick, which should only bolster a pass rush that had 42 sacks in 2012. Miami may not be an every-week play, but the Dolphins should be a top-15 fantasy defense in 2013.

3. CHARGERS » The defense certainly wasn't to blame for San Diego's 7–9 record last season. The Chargers finished ninth in the NFL in fewest yards allowed and sixth in fantasy points. The secondary needs to be rebuilt, as safety Atari Bigby and cornerbacks Antoine Cason and Quentin Jammer have departed. But the front seven could be among the best in the AFC, especially if rookie Manti Te'o stabilizes the linebacking corps. San Diego isn't a top-five fantasy defense, but this unit should be a reliable week-to-week option.

4. RAMS » There's no question Jeff Fisher has the Rams moving in the right direction. And thanks to a solid draft and the return of a young nucleus of talent, St. Louis could have its first winning season since 2003. The defense jumped from 22nd in yards allowed in 2011 to 14th last season. The addition of linebacker Alec Ogletree is crucial to the rush defense, and safety T.J. McDonald will push for time in the secondary. The Rams tied for the league lead with 52 sacks last season, and the line will only get better with the emergence of second-year tackle Michael Brockers. Expect St. Louis to be a top-10 defense in 2013.

1. RAVENS » Despite winning the Super Bowl, the Ravens were forced to make significant changes on defense. Linebacker Ray Lewis' play had slipped in recent years, but Baltimore will miss his leadership. Safeties Ed Reed and Bernard Pollard and linebackers Dannell Ellerbe and Paul Kruger were lost through free agency, but the Ravens softened the blow by signing linemen Chris Canty, Elvis Dumervil and Marcus Spears and safety Michael Huff. After finishing 14th among team defenses in fantasy points last year, and with all of the new faces stepping into the lineup, Baltimore is once again a fringe week-to-week starter.

2. BEARS » The Bears have been one of the most reliable fantasy defenses in recent years, but this unit is trending down in 2013. Three starters — linebackers Brian Urlacher and Nick Roach and defensive tackle Israel Idonije — were not re-signed, and the defense is under the direction of a new coordinator in Mel Tucker. Although Tucker is not expected to make many drastic changes to the defense, it will be hard for the Bears to replicate last season's nine defensive touchdowns and 44 forced turnovers. Chicago is still a top-10 option, but don't bank on a repeat of last season.

3. PATRIOTS » The Patriots ranked 25th in the NFL in yards allowed last season, but with 41 forced turnovers, they ranked fourth among defenses in fantasy points. New England managed to keep most of its unit intact and signed veteran safety Adrian Wilson to bolster the secondary. The draft provided some youth at linebacker and in the secondary, and cornerback Aqib Talib was re-signed to a one-year deal. That said, the Patriots have ranked 25th or worse in yards allowed for three consecutive years. Improvement is expected, but repeating 41 turnovers will be a challenge.

4. JETS » Despite finishing in the top 10 in fewest yards allowed for four consecutive seasons, the Jets' defense is likely go undrafted in many leagues. This unit ranked 18th in fantasy points last year and must replace one of the league's best cornerbacks in Darrelle Revis as well as linemen Mike DeVito and Sione Po'uha and safety LaRon Landry. First-round picks Dee Milliner and Sheldon Richardson will contribute right away, but the Jets did little to address a sluggish pass rush.

Rk	Team	Bye
1.	Seahawks	12
2.	Broncos	9
3.	Texans	8
4.	49ers	9
5.	Bengals	12
6.	Rams	11
7.	Bears	8
8.	Steelers	5
9.	Chargers	8
10.	Packers	4
11.	Falcons	6
12.	Patriots	10
13.	Dolphins	6
14.	Vikings	5
15.	Giants	9
16.	Browns	10
17.	Ravens	8
18.	Cowboys	11
19.	Cardinals	9
20.	Titans	8
21	Bills	12
22.	Eagles	12
23.	Chiefs	10
24.	Buccaneers	5
25.	Jets	10
26.	Colts	8
27.	Saints	7
28.	Lions	9
29.	Redskins	5
30.	Panthers	4
31.	Jaguars	9
32.	Raiders	7

©2013 Athlon Sports Illustrated Sports Illustrated

For 19 years, the gold standard

RealTime Fantasy Sports

www.rtsports.com • 636.447.1170
support@rtsports.com

FanDuel

"Fantasy Football is Here and I Can't Wait. I've Won $492,692 Playing Daily Fantasy Sports. How Much Could You Win?"
Chris Prince

This is Chris Prince. He's Beermakersfan on FanDuel - Doesn't He Look Happy?
This 35 year old from Detroit has won $492,692 playing daily fantasy sports contests on FanDuel.

A Brand New Way to Play Fantasy Football
FanDuel is the hottest thing in fantasy football. You can pick a new team and win cash any week of the season. Go up against other FanDuellers or even your buddies - for bragging rights and immediate cash payouts.

How is this Different from Season Long Fantasy Football?
- Salary cap leagues that last one day
- Huge variety of contest types
- Instant daily cash payouts
- Don't rely only on your buddies - play against other FanDuellers
- Play for free or for real money - use PayPal or your credit card
- No subscription fees or commitments

SPECIAL OFFER FOR ATHLON READERS

PLAY ON US FOR FREE
FREE $5
WHEN YOU JOIN

To claim your free $5 go to
www.fanduel.com/football
and use promocode
ATHLONPRO13
Valid for first 5,000 readers until 10/31/13

ORGANIZE YOUR DRAFT

THE DRAFT KIT™

Regular Size From Only $19

3 Size Labels With Up To a Jumbo 12-foot Draft Board

Regular - 1" x 4" labels with a 8 Team Draft Board ..... $19 + $6.50 S&H
Regular - 1" x 4" labels with a 10 or 12 Draft Board ..... $20 + $6.50 S&H
Regular - 1" x 4" labels with a 14 or 16 Team (4 X 6 ft) Draft Board ..... $20 + $9.75 S&H
Jumbo - 2" x 8" labels with a 12 ft x 4 ft Draft Board (14 Teams & 20 Rounds) ..... $42 + $13 S&H
Personal - ½" x 1 ¾ labels with a 2 x 2 ½ ft Draft Board (14 Teams & 32 Rounds) ..... $11 + $5 S&H

We are the original Draft Kit™ We have the Biggest Draft Boards, with the most sizes & options available.

Draft labels are self-sticking, when a player is picked, just peel off the label and put it on the draft board. Each position is color coded so it is easy to see what positions you need & what the other coaches need.

Each Draft Kit Includes:
- Draft labels that are color coded by position, for the top 475 QB's,WR's,RB's,TE's, PK's, & Defenses.
- Blank labels for each position.
- A draft board printed on heavy 60lb.paper.
- Downloadable league draft forms.
- Draft Board Personalizing Kit (Reg. & Jum. Only)

The Draft Kit Helps You To:
- Know which players have been picked, by which coach and which players are left.
- Speed up the draft by 25 - 30%.
- Easily read the draft board
- Eliminate illegal picks.

Stand - $12
Self Standing - Reusable Draft Board Stand. This heavy cardboard display stand will hold up your Draft board for everyone to see and it WON'T FALL OVER!

Visit Our Web Site for:
Unique Fantasy League Trophies, Mini Helmets, Awards & more!

Draft Kit Options
- Regular Size Draft Kits come with a choice of a 8, 10, 12, 14, or 16 team draft board
- IDP / Defensive Player Labels (DL, LB, DB)
- Auction Format Draft Kits
- Team QB, Team PK, Head Coach & OL Labels
- Expansion kits for larger leagues

DRAFTKIT.COM

919-846-DRAFT

FREE ONLINE DRAFT ORDER GENERATOR

2013 AFC PREDICTIONS

AFC EAST

1. New England Patriots
Lombardi Trophy drought enters ninth season.

2. Miami Dolphins
Dolphins are best of the rest in lackluster division.

3. New York Jets
Ryan's circus sheds Tebow but still has QB dilemma.

4. Buffalo Bills
New coach. New quarterback. Same results.

AFC NORTH

1. Pittsburgh Steelers
Playoff absence leaves Steelers hungry, dangerous.

2. Cincinnati Bengals
A lot riding on Andy Dalton's right arm.

3. Baltimore Ravens
Champs may take a step back post-Ray Lewis.

4. Cleveland Browns
New ownership, same spot in the standings.

AFC SOUTH

1. Houston Texans
No shortage of star power in Houston.

2. Indianapolis Colts
Colts have Luck on their side, playoffs in their sights.

3. Tennessee Titans
2013 is make-or-break for Jake Locker.

4. Jacksonville Jaguars
MoJo's comeback the only source of hope.

AFC WEST

1. Denver Broncos
Super Bowl or bust for Broncos.

2. Kansas City Chiefs
Division in disarray leaves opening for Chiefs.

3. San Diego Chargers
Regime change brings renewed hope.

4. Oakland Raiders
Full-scale rebuilding effort underway by the Bay.

AFC PLAYOFF SEEDING

1. Broncos
2. Patriots
3. Texans
4. Steelers
5. Bengals
6. Colts

WILD CARD

Texans over Colts
Steelers over Bengals

DIVISIONAL ROUND

Broncos over Steelers
Patriots over Texans

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP

Broncos over Patriots

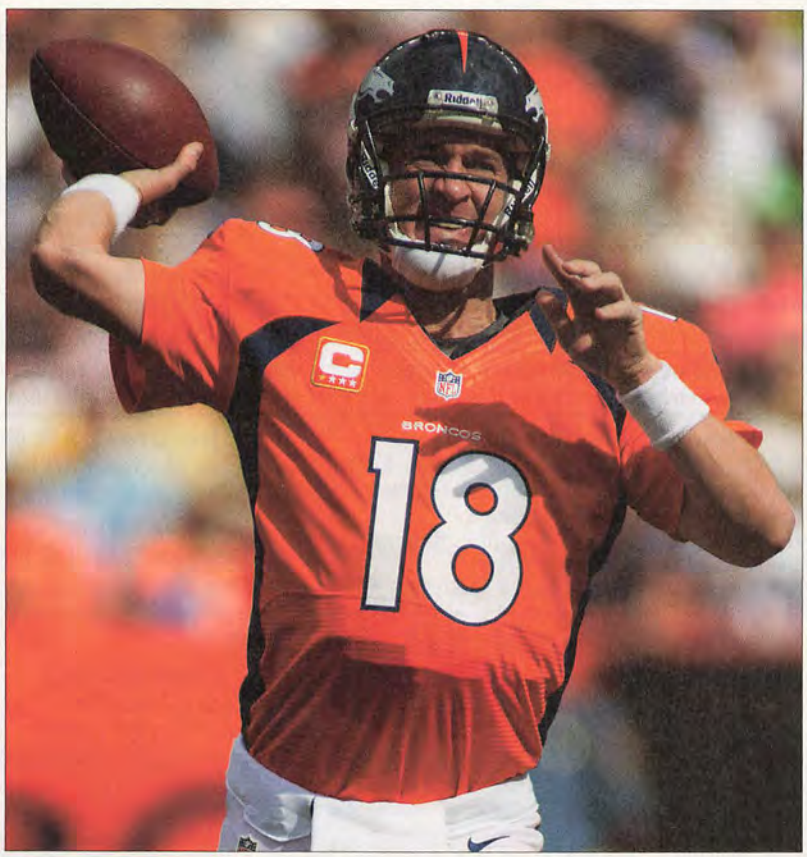
SUPER BOWL XLVIII

49ers
over
Broncos

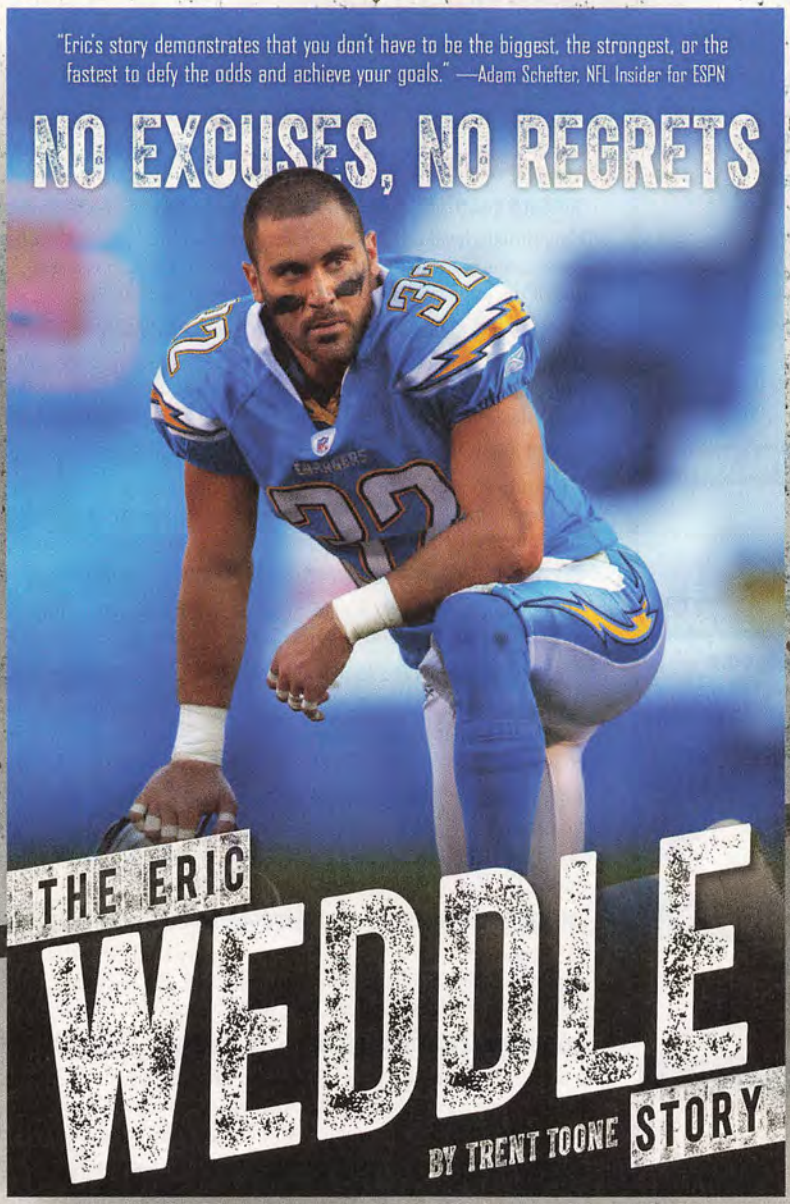
ATHLON SPORTS AFC POWER RANKINGS

1. Broncos	9. Chiefs
2. Patriots	10. Chargers
3. Texans	11. Browns
4. Steelers	12. Dolphins
5. Bengals	13. Jets
6. Ravens	14. Bills
7. Colts	15. Raiders
8. Titans	16. Jaguars

NOTE: Athlon's Power Rankings and playoff seedings differ to some degree because a team's overall strength and its ultimate finish in the standings don't always correlate.



Peter Brouillet


"Eric's story demonstrates that you don't have to be the biggest, the strongest, or the fastest to defy the odds and achieve your goals." —Adam Schefter, NFL Insider for ESPN
NO EXCUSES, NO REGRETS
THE ERIC
WEDDLE
STORY
BY TRENT TOONE

A PLAYBOOK TO LIVE BY

As a football player, Eric Weddle went from being undersized and unwanted out of high school to a Pro-Bowl safety and one of the NFL's best defensive minds. He is a man who values his family and faith above all else and finds huge success on the field and off. Read Eric's story about living each day with no excuses and no regrets – and learn how you can too.

IN STORES MAY 13

VISIT SHADOWMOUNTAIN.COM
FOR MORE INFORMATION

AFC AWARD WINNERS

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Arian Foster, RB, Texans
Has averaged 1,900 total yards and 16 TDs over last three seasons.

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Von Miller, OLB, Broncos
Mile High sack-master has posted 30 sacks over first two seasons.

COMEBACK PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Maurice Jones-Drew, RB, Jaguars
MJD should regain his Mojo and run wild in Jacksonville once again.

OFFENSIVE ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Montee Ball, RB, Broncos
Badger back reminds John Elway of former teammate Terrell Davis.

DEFENSIVE ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Jarvis Jones, OLB, Steelers
Bulldog pass-rusher in line to fill shoes of departed James Harrison.

COACH OF THE YEAR

Bill Belichick, Patriots
The chess master will need to make all the right moves to stay on top.

2013 AFC PREDICTIONS

AFC COORDINATOR CAROUSEL

BUFFALO BILLS OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR OLD: **CURTIS MODKINS** NEW: **NATHANIEL HACKETT**

New Buffalo head coach Doug Marrone brought Hackett, the offensive coordinator his last two seasons at Syracuse, with him to the NFL. Hackett is tasked with trying to jumpstart one of the league's least-productive passing offenses in 2012.

BUFFALO BILLS DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR Old: **DAVE WANNSTEDT** New: **MIKE PETTINE**

Pettine stays in the AFC East, coming over after serving as Rex Ryan's defensive coordinator with the Jets the past four seasons. Pettine has his work cut out for him in Buffalo. The Bills surrendered the second-most points (435) in franchise history last season.

CLEVELAND BROWNS OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR Old: **BRAD CHILDRESS** New: **NORV TURNER**

Fired after six seasons in San Diego, Turner returns to the role where he first made a name for himself in the NFL. As Dallas' offensive coordinator from 1991-93, Turner helped produce three top-10 offenses for Cowboy teams that won back-to-back Super Bowls.

CLEVELAND BROWNS DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR Old: **DICK JAURON** New: **RAY HORTON**

After getting passed over for the head job in Arizona, Horton was tabbed by new Cleveland coach Rob Chudzinski to help the Browns' young defense take the next step.

DENVER BRONCOS OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR Old: **MIKE MCCOY** New: **ADAM GASE**

Promoted from QBs coach following Mike McCoy's departure to San Diego, Gase will try to continue what Peyton Manning & Co. started. Gase has even more weapons at his disposal in wide receiver Wes Welker and rookie running back Montee Ball.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR Old: **BRUCE ARIANS** New: **PEP HAMILTON**

After Bruce Arians left to take over as the head coach in Arizona, Chuck Pagano hired Hamilton, who was Andrew Luck's quarterbacks coach and Stanford's offensive coordinator during Luck's highly successful final season with the Cardinal.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR Old: **BOB BRATKOWSKI** New: **JEDD FISCH**

New Jaguars head coach Gus Bradley is already familiar with Fisch, as the two worked together on Pete Carroll's staff in Seattle in 2010. Fisch returns to the NFL following a two-year stint as the Miami Hurricanes' offensive coordinator.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR Old: **MEL TUCKER** New: **BOB BABICH**

Babich brings three decades of experience to Jacksonville to oversee Gus Bradley's defense. He had been a part of the Bears coaching staff since 2006, including the past three as linebackers coach, where he worked with Pro Bowlers Lance Briggs and Brian Urlacher.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR Old: **BRIAN DABOLL** New: **DOUG PEDERSON**

Pederson was part of Andy Reid's staff in Philadelphia from 2009-12 and will take his first crack as a coordinator working with Reid in Kansas City. Pederson was the Eagles' quarterbacks coach when the team set a franchise record for total offense in 2011.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR Old: **ROMEO CRENNEL** New: **BOB SUTTON**

Sutton spent the past 13 seasons on the Jets' staff. He served as Eric Mangini's defensive coordinator in New York from 2006-08 before shifting to LBs coach under Rex Ryan.

NEW YORK JETS OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR Old: **TONY SPARANO** New: **MARTY MORNHINWEG**

The Eagles' offensive coordinator the past seven seasons, Mornhinweg landed on his feet following his dismissal in Philadelphia. He'll work with a Jets offense that scored fewer than 18 points and averaged less than 181 yards passing per game last season.

NEW YORK JETS DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR Old: **MIKE PETTINE** New: **DENNIS THURMAN**

The Jets' DBs coach the past five seasons, Thurman was promoted to defensive coordinator by Rex Ryan after Pettine left for the same post in Buffalo. Thurman will try to help the Jets' defense return to its '09 form, when it led the NFL in points and yards allowed.

OAKLAND RAIDERS OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR Old: **GREG KNAPP** New: **GREG OLSON**

Knapp was made the scapegoat for the Raiders' inability to run the ball. Olson is no stranger to this role, having served as OC for Detroit, St. Louis and Tampa Bay.

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR Old: **HAL HUNTER** New: **KEN WHISENHUNT**

Fired after six seasons as the head coach in Arizona, Whisenhunt joins new San Diego head coach Mike McCoy's staff in the same role he held with Pittsburgh from 2004-06.

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

Jim Hurley's Network®
EXCLUSIVE

GOLD KEY CLUB

There's no question about it, Jim Hurley's exclusive **GOLD KEY CLUB** is not for everyone. Number one, it's not for "good losers." Someone once said, *"Show me a good loser, and I'll show you an idiot."*

Jim's **GOLD KEY** clients aren't good losers – ***they're great winners.*** **And the closest they've ever come to idiots is when they separate the man from his money.**

And Jim Hurley's **GOLD KEY CLUB** is not for guys with low horizons... ***It's for guys who breathe deep and dream big.***

Jim's **GOLD KEY** clients don't just play to win – ***they play to WIN BIG.*** And their goal is to break the bank.

In short, Jim Hurley's Network's® **GOLD KEY CLUB** is strictly for no nonsense heavy hitters. For those who choose to live by Coach Vince Lombardi's legacy: ***"Winning isn't a part-time thing, it's an all the time thing. It isn't the most important thing, it's the only thing. And second-best is a loser."***

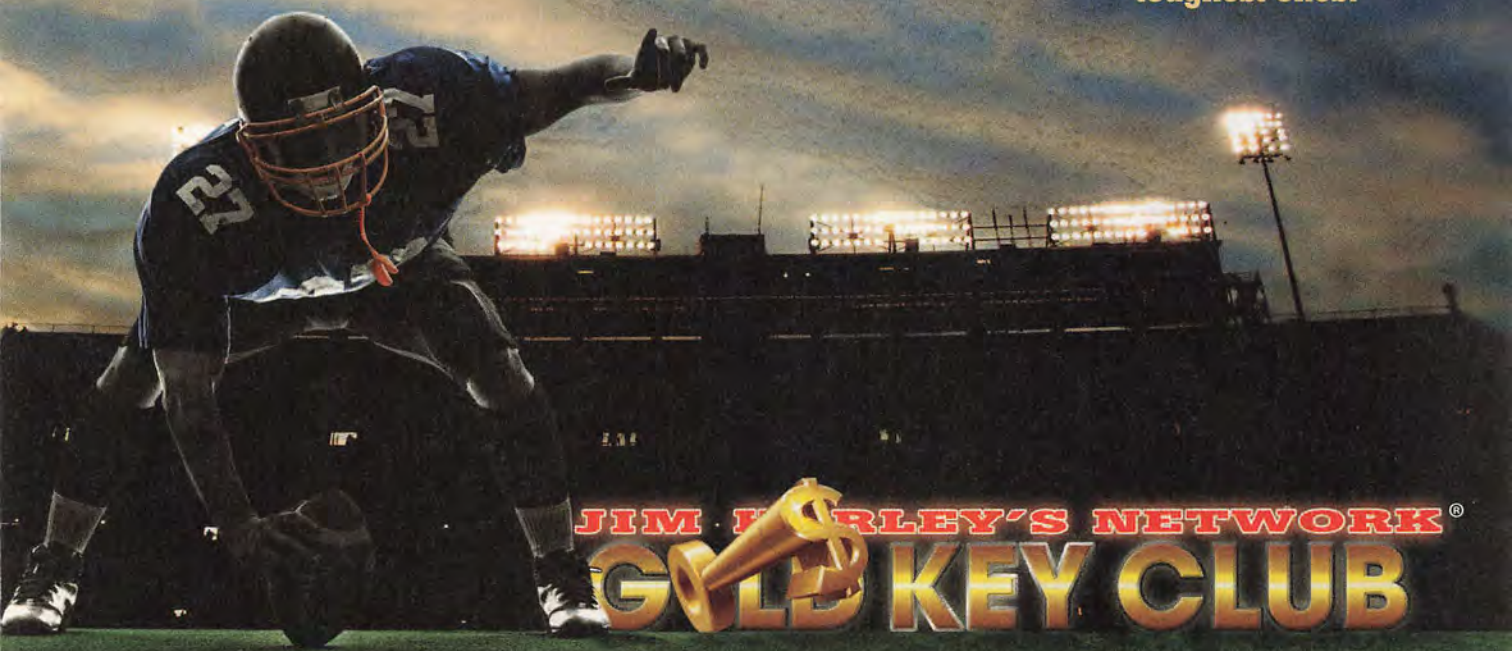
If that sounds like someone you know, give him this ad. ***If it sounds like you, give us a call.*** Mark down the starting date... Sunday, August 4th at Canton, OH - *The Hall of Fame Game* – Cowboys vs Dolphins. You'll be joining a confident legion of Hurley followers who've been earning healthy returns off the **GOLD KEY CLUB** for years. *There's no reason you can't do the same!*

Because Membership has it's Privileges. And Profits.

2012 GOLD KEY RECORD:

8-17	Titans	(+2½)	Buccaneers	30-7	WINNER
8-23	Packers	(-3)	Bengals	27-13	WINNER
8-30	Steelers	-3½)	Panthers	17-16	L
9-3	Georgia Tech	(+7½)	Virginia Tech	17-20	WINNER
9-8	W. Forest	(+10½)	N. Carolina	28-27	WINNER
9-9	49'ers	(+4½)	Packers	30-22	WINNER
9-15	Ohio U	(-6)	Marshall	27-24	L
9-16	Colts	(+3)	Vikings	23-20	WINNER
9-22	Kansas St	(+16½)	Oklahoma	24-19	WINNER
9-23	Broncos	(+1½)	Texans	25-31	L
9-29	Duke	(+2½)	Wake Forest	34-27	WINNER
9-30	Panthers	(+7)	Falcons	28-30	WINNER
10-6	W. Forest	(+7)	Maryland	14-19	WINNER
10-7	Bengals	(-3)	Dolphins	13-17	L
10-13	California	(-7)	Wash St	31-17	WINNER
10-14	Seahawks	(+4)	Patriots	24-23	WINNER
10-18	Arizona St.	(+8)	Oregon	21-43	L
10-20	S. Florida	(+6)	Louisville	25-27	WINNER
10-21	Titans	(+3)	Bills	35-34	WINNER
10-27	Toledo	(-7½)	Buffalo	25-20	L
10-28	Giants	(-2½)	Cowboys	29-24	WINNER
11-3	San Jose St	(-20½)	Idaho	42-13	WINNER
11-4	Seahawks	(-4)	Vikings	30-20	WINNER
11-10	Georgia	(-15)	Auburn	38-0	WINNER
11-11	49'ers	(-12½)	Rams	24-24	L
11-17	Wisconsin	(-2)	Ohio St	14-21	L
11-18	Patriots	(-9)	Colts	59-24	WINNER
11-24	S. Carolina	(+3½)	Clemson	27-17	WINNER
11-25	Falcons	(-3½)	Saints	23-13	WINNER
12-1	Baylor	(+5)	Oklahoma St	41-34	WINNER
12-2	Dolphins	(+9)	Patriots	16-23	WINNER
12-9	Ravens	(+2½)	Redskins	28-31	L
12-13	Eagles	(+5)	Bengals	13-34	L
12-16	Texans	(-10)	Colts	29-17	WINNER
12-23	Saints	(+2½)	Cowboys	34-31	WINNER
12-30	Colts	(+7)	Texans	28-16	WINNER

26 Wins - 10 Loses
72.2% Winners
– Taking on the toughest ones!



JIM HURLEY'S NETWORK®
GOLD KEY CLUB

Call now **1-800-323-4453**

www.JimHurley.com

BUFFALO BILLS

See more cheerleaders by visiting AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER: Ralph Wilson
PRESIDENT: Russ Brandon
DIRECTOR OF PRO PERSONNEL: Doug Whaley
STADIUM: Ralph Wilson Stadium (73,079)
SURFACE: FieldTurf
WEBSITE: 877-BB-TICKS
TICKETS: 877-228-4257
TRAINING CAMP: St. John Fisher College (Rochester, N.Y.)

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Doug Marrone
RECORD WITH TEAM: 0-0
CAREER RECORD: 0-0
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Nathaniel Hackett
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Mike Pettine

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2008	7
2009	6
2010	4
2011	6
2012	6

STEVIE JOHNSON, WR

Doug Marrone, the former Syracuse head coach, is off to a banner start with the Buffalo Bills. Channeling some of that college spirit, Marrone ordered up two 20-feet-tall banners picturing the Vince Lombardi Trophy to hang behind the goal posts of the team's field house.

For a team stuck in a perpetual rebuilding phase (13 seasons missing the playoffs) and working on its sixth coach since 2000, that's probably as close as the Bills are going to come to the Super Bowl for awhile. But players appreciate Marrone's attempt at an attitude adjustment.

"If you are not shooting for the Super Bowl, what are you shooting for?" center Eric Wood says. "That is a good message to have around."

No doubt. Several regulars have been jettisoned from Chan Gailey's roster that eked out six wins in the rugged AFC East, and a full-blown overhaul is underway. The offense must identify a starting quarterback, and the defense is starting from square one. The Bills simply remain years away from being relevant.

OFFENSE After turning the page on Ryan Fitzpatrick, the Bills made Florida State's EJ Manuel the only quarterback taken in the first round of the NFL Draft. Taking Manuel at No. 16 — many critics said it was too high — anoints him as the team's starting quarterback of the future. The only question is: When will that future be?

Marrone plans an open competition in training camp between Manuel and veterans Tarvaris Jackson and Kevin Kolb, who signed as a free agent after his release by Arizona. At 6'4", 237 with 4.55 speed, Manuel has eye-popping physical gifts that new coordinator Nathaniel Hackett, known for his creativity out of a West Coast philosophy, can't wait to incorporate. Manuel was 25–6 as a starter for the Seminoles and has the ability to incorporate the read-option into a Buffalo offense that ranked 21st in scoring last season. But in the short term, Kolb gives the Bills their best chance at success.

Whoever emerges from camp will have a supporting cast that features several game-breaking players. But there are also major holes to fill at left guard and tight end.

Fourth-year running back C.J. Spiller is coming off a breakout season in which he gained 1,244 yards on just 207 carries (6.0 average). Veteran Fred Jackson, 32, can punish defenses with his hard, downhill style, but injuries have taken a toll.

Wide receiver Stevie Johnson topped 1,000 yards receiving for a team-record third consecutive season. After ranking 25th in passing, Buffalo made upgrading speed and depth at receiver a major goal. Second-round pick Robert Woods (USC) and third-round pick Marquise Goodwin (Texas), an Olympic long jumper, join second-year deep threat T. J. Graham as players with a golden opportunity to make an impact.

Buffalo boasts a strong offensive line led by Wood at center, guard Kraig Urbik and tackles Cordy Glenn and Erik Pears. But the team must find a replacement for left guard Andy Levitre, who signed a lucrative deal with Tennessee as a free agent. The tight end position is in a state of flux with Scott Chandler coming off ACL surgery.

DEFENSE After fielding three of the franchise's five worst defenses in terms of yards and points allowed (what else really matters?) under Gailey, the Bills had no choice but to turn the page on a long list of veteran players. Departing via retirement or outright release were Nick Barnett, Shawne Merriman, Terrence McGee, George Wilson and Chris Kelsay.

Newcomers include linebacker Manny Lawson (free agent, Cincinnati), defensive tackle Alan Branch (free agent, Seattle) and three rookie draft picks — linebacker Kiko Alonso and safeties Duke Williams and Jonathan Meeks.

The Bills allowed 362.9 total yards per game (22nd in the league) and were especially bad against the run (145.8 ypg, 31st). Taking control is coordinator Mike Pettine, the architect of several strong defenses for the rival New York Jets. While Pettine uses a base 3-4, his schemes are varied — he'll use up to seven defensive backs, and he's not afraid to blitz frequently.

Buffalo's front seven shouldn't be the pushover it was a year ago. Defensive end Mario Williams, last year's prized free agent who signed the richest NFL deal ever for a defensive player, finished with 10.5 very quiet sacks. He figures to be turned loose by Pettine, who will look to Pro Bowl tackle Kyle Williams, Marcell Dareus and Branch to stop the run. Dareus had a down year dealing with the death of his brother but should be more mentally focused.

Spiller, Johnson: Athlon Sports; Cheer: Rick Stewart/Getty Images

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

High praise New Bills coach Doug Marrone helped lay the foundation for the New Orleans Saints' Super Bowl run as their offensive coordinator from 2006-08. From there, he returned to his alma mater, Syracuse, and helped resurrect a down program with a pair of bowl bids and a 25–25 overall record. "I really enjoyed my time here working with him," Saints quarterback Drew Brees says. "Doug's a coach who cares deeply about his players. … I can tell you there are a lot of people here at the Saints that are proud to see him earn this opportunity with the Bills."

Breakout C.J. Spiller enjoyed a breakout 2012 season, rushing for 1,244 yards on just 207 carries. That 6.0 yards-per-carry average tied Minnesota's Adrian Peterson for best in the NFL, and Spiller's 11 games with at least 100 yards from scrimmage were the most by a Bills running back since Hall of Famer Thurman Thomas in 1992.

Good company Quarterback EJ Manuel, the Bills first-round pick, grew up in Virginia Beach, Va., with Bills Hall of Fame defensive end Bruce Smith as a family friend. In fact, Smith is Manuel's godfather. "He told me it's a great town and the fans love their football," Manuel says. "He sounded just as excited as I am."

What $100 million buys Defensive end Mario Williams, who signed the richest deal by a defensive player in NFL history (six years, nearly $100 million), finished last season with 10.5 sacks. That tied for 17th in the NFL. Meanwhile, Buffalo's defense ranked 22nd overall, including 30th on third down, 31st against the run and 26th in points allowed, costing coach Chan Gailey his job. Just another hard lesson from the annals of free agency.

Leaving me waiting The Bills are riding the NFL's longest playoff drought at 13 seasons. Oakland and Cleveland follow at 10 years. Buffalo's last playoff appearance was a 1999 AFC Wild Card round loss at Tennessee when the Titans returned a kickoff for a touchdown in the final seconds on a controversial play known as the "Music City Miracle."

Not shying away New Bills president Russ Brandon took the bull by the horns when addressing the club's 13-year playoff drought. "We acknowledge it; we own it and we will never run from it," he says. "This is an organization with a proud tradition, but I will tell you that this brand has been tarnished. Its relevancy has been tarnished, and it is unacceptable, because we just have not won enough games."

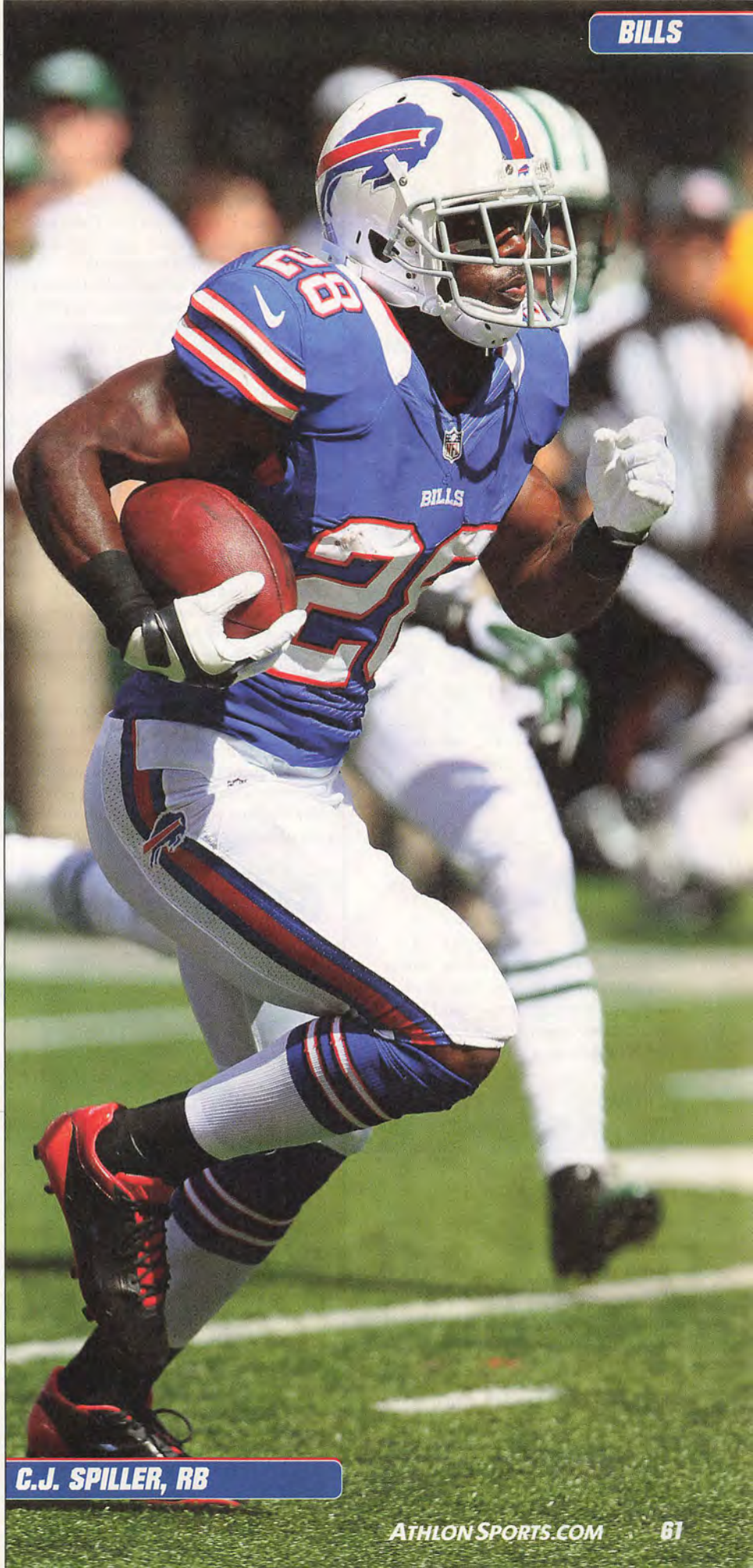
PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
NT	Alan Branch	Seattle
LB	Jerry Hughes	Indianapolis
QB	Kevin Kolb	Arizona
LB	Manny Lawson	Cincinnati

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
LB	Nick Barnett	Free Agent
QB	Ryan Fitzpatrick	Tennessee
WR	Donald Jones	New England
DE	Chris Kelsay	Retired
G	Andy Levitre	Tennessee
LB	Shawne Merriman	Retired
CB	Terrence McGee	Free Agent
LB	Kelvin Sheppard	Indianapolis
SS	George Wilson	Tennessee



C.J. SPILLER, RB

2012 RESULTS (6–10)

Sept. 9	at N.Y. Jets	L	28–48
Sept. 16	Kansas City	W	35–17
Sept. 23	at Cleveland	W	24–14
Sept. 30	New England	L	28–52
Oct. 7	at San Francisco	L	3–45
Oct. 14	at Arizona (ot)	W	19–16
Oct. 21	Tennessee	L	34–35
Nov. 4	at Houston	L	9–21
Nov. 11	at New England	L	31–37
Nov. 15	Miami	W	19–14
Nov. 25	at Indianapolis	L	13–20
Dec. 2	Jacksonville	W	34–18
Dec. 9	St. Louis	L	12–15
Dec. 16	Seattle	L	17–50
Dec. 23	at Miami	L	10–24
Dec. 30	N.Y. Jets	W	28–9

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Ryan Fitzpatrick	505	306	3,400	24	16
Tyler Thigpen	5	3	30	0	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
C.J. Spiller	207	1,244	6.0	6
Fred Jackson	115	437	3.8	3
Ryan Fitzpatrick	48	197	4.1	1
Tashard Choice	47	193	4.1	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Stevie Johnson	79	1,046	13.2	6
Scott Chandler	43	571	13.3	6
C.J. Spiller	43	459	10.7	2
Donald Jones	41	443	10.8	4

KICKING: Rian Lindell, 21-24 FGs, 39-39 XPs, 102 points
TACKLES: Nick Barnett, 112; George Wilson, 104
SACKS: Mario Williams, 10.5; Marcell Dareus, 5.5
INTERCEPTIONS: Jairus Byrd, 5; Bryan Scott, 4
FORCED FUMBLES: Jairus Byrd 4

2012 STATS

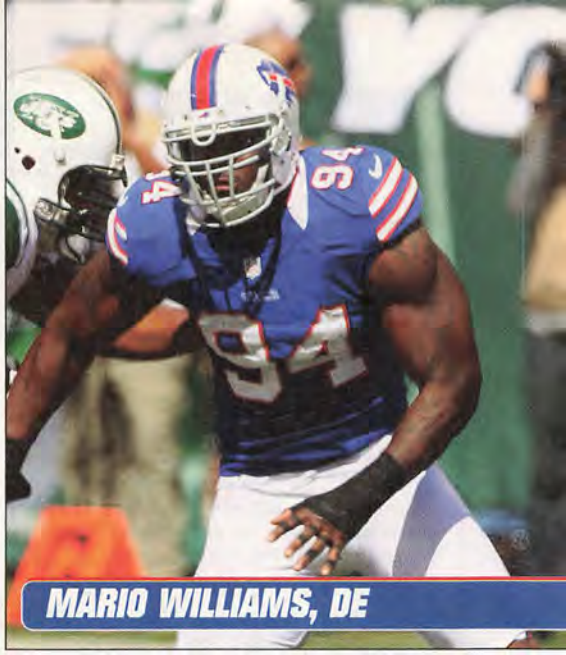
TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	342.9	19	7
Rushing	138.6	6	2
Passing	204.3	25	13
Scoring	21.5	21	8
Third Down %	38.9	13	5
Punt Returns	17.1	1	1
Kick Returns	27.0	4	3

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	362.9	22	11
Rushing	145.8	31	16
Passing	217.1	10	5
Scoring	27.2	26	13
Interceptions	12	T20	T9
Sacks	36.0	T18	11
Turnover Differential	-13	T27	14

End Mark Anderson is coming off knee issues and should also be more of a factor.

The Bills need more production from their linebackers, who accounted for just five of the team's 36 sacks. Outside backers Lawson, Nigel Bradham, Arthur Moats and Jerry Hughes, a former first-round pick acquired in a trade with the Colts, will be counted on to create havoc. Alonso could start in the middle as a rookie.

The secondary is led by Pro Bowl safety Jairus Byrd and cornerbacks Stephon Gilmore, who is coming off a strong rookie season, and Leodis McKelvin. Byrd, who tied for the AFC lead with five interceptions, was designated the club's franchise player, and the team is hoping to get a long-term deal done. The strong safety spot is wide open with converted corner Aaron Williams, Da'Norris Searcy and Duke Williams in the mix.


MARIO WILLIAMS, DE

SPECIALISTS Placekicker Rian Lindell returns for his 11th season needing just 32 points to pass Stevie Christie (1,011) as the team's career scoring leader. Florida State's Dustin Hopkins, the NCAA's career points leader, was drafted in the sixth round to get Lindell's attention, and the stage is set for some training camp drama. Last year, Shawn Powell replaced all-time Bills punter Brian Moorman and established a team record for punting average by a rookie at 44.0 per attempt. McKelvin and Brad Smith are the top return specialists. McKelvin, who was retained for a four-year, $20-million deal, led the NFL in punt return average at 18.7 yards with two returns for scores.

FINAL ANALYSIS After 13 seasons without playing in the postseason, it's hard for even the most fervent fan to be optimistic that another coaching change will mean anything. Marrone does represent a fresh face and the promise of young ideas. The addition of Manuel as a potential franchise quarterback does make the team more interesting to follow. Pettine, a well-respected coordinator, will make the defense better. But in a rugged AFC East dominated by New England and with a schedule much more difficult than in 2012, it will take more than one offseason to undo all the mistakes of the last decade in Buffalo.

NFL DRAFT 2013 BILLS IN THE DRAFT

B+

RD PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1. EJ Manuel	QB	6-4	237	Florida State
2. Robert Woods	WR	6-2	190	USC
2. Kiko Alonso	LB	6-3	238	Oregon
3. Marquise Goodwin	WR	5-9	179	Texas
4. Duke Williams	S	5-11	201	Nevada
5. Jonathan Meeks	S	6-1	210	Clemson
6. Dustin Hopkins	K	6-2	193	Florida State
7. Chris Gragg	TE	6-3	244	Arkansas

The Bills will give EJ Manuel every chance to start, being mindful not to rush him and risk ruining his development. If he doesn't start in Week 1, the team is expected to include read-option plays in its gameplan for the powerful, quick-footed passer. Of all of Buffalo's draft picks, USC's Robert Woods has the best chance of stepping into the starting lineup immediately, and the speedy Marquise Goodwin should also find work from the start in the team's spread packages. Both bring much-needed speed to the roster. Former Oregon star Kiko Alonso will get a crack at nailing down a middle linebacker spot, especially if he's worthy in coverage and he's put his off-the-field issues behind him. Dustin Hopkins, too, will get a chance to unseat veteran kicker Rian Lindell.

Williams: Athlon Sports; Manuel: Tom DiPace

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
7 Jackson, Tarvaris	QB	6-2	225	7	Alabama State	T-Sea-12	D2-Min-06
4 Kolb, Kevin	QB	6-3	218	6	Houston	FA-Ari-13	D2-Phi-07
RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
20 Choice, Tashard	RB	5-10	210	5	Georgia Tech	FA-11	D4-Dal-08
42 Dickerson, Dorin	FB	6-1	226	1	Pittsburgh	FA-12	D7-Hou-10
22 Jackson, Fred	RB	6-1	216	6	Coe	FA-06	FA-Buf-06
28 Spiller, C.J.	RB	5-11	200	3	Clemson	D1-10	D1-Buf-10
38 Summers, Frank	FB	5-9	248	2	UNLV	FA-13	D5-Pit-09
RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
80 Caussin, Mike	TE	6-5	243	2	James Madison	FA-10	FA-Jac-10
84 Chandler, Scott	TE	6-7	260	6	Iowa	FA-10	D4-SD-07
81 Easley, Marcus	WR	6-2	217	1	Connecticut	D4-10	D4-Buf-10
11 Graham, T.J.	WR	5-11	188	1	NC State	D3-12	D3-Buf-12
13 Johnson, Stevie	WR	6-2	207	5	Kentucky	D7b-08	D7b-Buf-08
16 Smith, Brad	WR	6-2	213	7	Missouri	FA-11	D4-NYJ-06
85 Smith, Lee	TE	6-6	265	2	Marshall	FA-11	D5-NE-11
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
74 Brown, Colin	C	6-7	326	2	Missouri	FA-10	D5-KC-09
77 Glenn, Cordy	T	6-6	345	1	Georgia	D2-12	D2-Buf-12
75 Hairston, Chris	T	6-6	330	2	Clemson	D4b-11	D4b-Buf-11
63 Jackson, Andrew	G/T	6-6	299	1	Fresno State	FA-12	D7-Atl-11
79 Pears, Erik	T	6-8	316	7	Colorado State	FA-10	FA-Den-05
72 Sanders, Zebrie	T	6-6	320	1	Florida State	D5a-12	D5a-Buf-12
61 Snow, David	C	6-4	303	1	Texas	FA-12	FA-Buf-12
62 Stephens, Reggie	G/T	6-3	325	2	Iowa State	FA-12	FA-Buf-12
60 Urbik, Kraig	G	6-5	324	4	Wisconsin	FA-10	D3-Pit-09
68 Williams, Keith	G	6-5	330	1	Nebraska	FA-11	D6-Pit-11
70 Wood, Eric	C	6-4	310	4	Louisville	D1b-09	D1b-Buf-09
71 Young, Sam	T	6-8	316	3	Notre Dame	FA-11	D6-Dal-10
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
93 Anderson, Mark	DE	6-4	255	7	Alabama	FA-NE-12	D5-Chi-06
58 Blatnick, Jamie	DE	6-3	253	1	Oklahoma State	FA-13	FA-Den-12
90 Branch, Alan	DT	6-6	325	6	Michigan	FA-Sea-13	D2-Ari-07
92 Carrington, Alex	DT	6-5	301	3	Arkansas State	D3-10	D3-Buf-10
99 Dareus, Marcell	DT	6-3	331	2	Alabama	D1-11	D1-Buf-11
73 Gilbert, Jarron	DT	6-5	289	2	San Jose State	FA-11	D3-Chi-09
69 Ross, Jay	DT	6-3	319	1	East Carolina	FA-12	FA-NO-10
98 Troup, Torell	DT	6-3	327	3	UCF	D2-10	D2-Buf-10
95 Williams, Kyle	DT	6-1	303	7	LSU	D5a-06	D5a-Buf-06
94 Williams, Mario	DE	6-6	292	7	NC State	FA-Hou-12	D1-Hou-06
LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
53 Bradham, Nigel	LB	6-2	241	1	Florida State	D4a-12	D4a-Buf-12
56 Brown, Kourtnei	LB	6-4	253	1	Clemson	FA-13	FA-SF-12
54 Dowtin, Marcus	LB	6-2	226	1	North Alabama	W-Phi-13	FA-NYJ-12
55 Hughes, Jerry	LB	6-2	254	3	TCU	T-Ind-13	D1-Ind-10
91 Lawson, Manny	LB	6-5	240	7	NC State	FA-Cin-13	D1-SF-06
59 Lloyd, Greg	LB	6-1	247	2	Connecticut	FA-12	D7-Phi-11
52 Moats, Arthur	LB	6-2	250	3	James Madison	D6a-10	D6a-Buf-10
43 Scott, Bryan	LB	6-1	220	10	Penn State	FA-07	D2-Atl-03
51 White, Chris	LB	6-3	238	2	Mississippi State	D6-11	D6-Buf-11
DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
33 Brooks, Ron	CB	5-10	190	1	LSU	D4b-12	D4b-Buf-12
31 Byrd, Jairus	FS	5-10	203	4	Oregon	D2a-09	D2a-Buf-09
27 Gilmore, Stephon	CB	6-1	190	1	South Carolina	D1-12	D1-Buf-12
44 Heath, T.J.	CB	6-1	179	2	Jacksonville State	FA-12	FA-Jac-11
36 Howell, Delano	SS	5-11	201	1	Stanford	FA-12	FA-Buf-12
21 McKelvin, Leodis	CB	5-10	185	5	Troy	D1-08	D1-Buf-08
26 Rogers, Justin	CB	5-11	181	2	Richmond	D7a-11	D7a-Buf-11
25 Searcy, Da'Norris	SS	5-11	216	2	North Carolina	D4a-11	D4a-Buf-11
30 Silva, Mana	DB	6-0	206	1	Hawaii	FA-12	FA-Bal-11
23 Williams, Aaron	CB	6-0	199	2	Texas	D2-11	D2-Buf-11
SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
9 Lindell, Rian	K	6-3	227	13	Washington State	FA-03	FA-Sea-00
6 Powell, Shawn	P	6-4	243	1	Florida State	FA-12	FA-Buf-12
65 Sanborn, Garrison	LS	6-1	240	4	Florida State	FA-09	FA-Buf-09
2 Stahovich, Brian	P	6-0	190	1	San Diego State	FA-13	FA-Ind-12

Athlon Sports

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	13	Stevie Johnson
	16	Brad Smith
WR	10	Robert Woods (R)
	11	T.J. Graham
LT	77	Cordy Glenn
	72	Zebrie Sanders
LG	61	David Snow
	68	Keith Williams
C	70	Eric Wood
	74	Colin Brown
RG	60	Kraig Urbik
	62	Adam Grant
RT	79	Erik Pears
	75	Chris Hairston
TE	85	Lee Smith
	84	Scott Chandler
QB	4	Kevin Kolb
	3	EJ Manuel (R)
FB	82	Dorin Dickerson
	38	Frank Summers
RB	28	C.J. Spiller
	22	Fred Jackson

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	94	Mario Williams
	58	Jamie Blatnick
DT	99	Marcell Dareus
	90	Alan Branch
DT	95	Kyle Williams
	98	Torell Troup
DE	93	Mark Anderson
	92	Alex Carrington
OLB	53	Nigel Bradham
	55	Jerry Hughes
MLB	50	Kiko Alonso (R)
	58	Brian Smith
OLB	91	Manny Lawson
	43	Bryan Scott
CB	21	Leodis McKelvin
	33	Ron Brooks
CB	27	Stephon Gilmore
	26	Justin Rogers
SS	25	Da'Norris Searcy
	23	Aaron Williams
FS	31	Jairus Byrd
	27	Duke Williams (R)

SPECIALISTS

K	9	Rian Lindell
P	6	Shawn Powell

KR	21	Leodis McKelvin
PR	21	Leodis McKelvin

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
T.J. Graham, WR

DEEP-SLEEPER
Dustin Hopkins, K

OVERVALUED
Mario Williams, DE

TOP ROOKIE
Robert Woods, WR

BOUNCE-BACK
Kevin Kolb, QB

TOP IDP
Jairus Byrd, S

For more Fantasy, visit **AthlonSports.com/fantasy** or follow **@AthlonSports** on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 8	New England	1:00	12-4	427.9 (1)	373.2 (25)	34.8 (1)	20.7 (9)
2	Sept. 15	Carolina	1:00	7-9	360.7 (12)	333.1 (10)	22.3 (18)	22.7 (18)
3	Sept. 22	at N.Y. Jets	4:25	6-10	299.2 (30)	323.4 (8)	17.6 (28)	23.4 (20)
4	Sept. 29	Baltimore	1:00	10-6	352.5 (16)	350.9 (17)	24.9 (10)	21.5 (12)
5	Oct. 3	at Cleveland (Thu.)	8:25	5-11	314.2 (25)	363.8 (23)	18.9 (24)	23.0 (19)
6	Oct. 13	Cincinnati	1:00	10-6	332.7 (22)	319.7 (6)	24.4 (12)	20.0 (8)
7	Oct. 20	at Miami	1:00	7-9	311.5 (27)	356.8 (21)	18.0 (27)	19.8 (7)
8	Oct. 27	at New Orleans	1:00	7-9	410.9 (2)	440.1 (32)	28.8 (3)	28.4 (31)
9	Nov. 3	Kansas City	1:00	2-14	319.2 (24)	356.5 (20)	13.2 (32)	26.6 (25)
10	Nov. 10	at Pittsburgh	1:00	8-8	332.7 (21)	275.8 (1)	21.0 (22)	19.6 (6)
11	Nov. 17	N.Y. Jets	1:00	6-10	299.2 (30)	323.4 (8)	17.6 (28)	23.4 (20)
12		BYE						
13	Dec. 1	Atlanta (Toronto)	4:05	13-3	369.1 (8)	365.6 (24)	26.2 (7)	18.7 (5)
14	Dec. 8	at Tampa Bay	1:00	7-9	363.8 (9)	379.9 (29)	24.3 (13)	24.6 (23)
15	Dec. 15	at Jacksonville	1:00	2-14	299.2 (29)	380.5 (30)	15.9 (30)	27.8 (29)
16	Dec. 22	Miami	1:00	7-9	311.5 (27)	356.8 (21)	18.0 (27)	19.8 (7)
17	Dec. 29	at New England	1:00	12-4	427.9 (1)	373.2 (25)	34.8 (1)	20.7 (T9)

MIAMI DOLPHINS

AFC EAST FORECAST 2

See more cheerleaders by visiting AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

THE ORGANIZATION

CHAIRMAN/MANAGING GENERAL PARTNER: Stephen Ross
GENERAL MANAGER: Jeff Ireland
ASSISTANT GM: Brian Gaine
STADIUM: Sun Life Stadium (75,540)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.miamidolphins.com
TICKETS: 888-FINS-TIX
TRAINING CAMP: Miami Dolphins Training Facility (Davie, Fla.)

After four straight non-playoff seasons, you can say this about the Dolphins: They are decidedly different. Jeff Ireland, the holdover general manager, spent the offseason deploying owner Stephen Ross' cash and his draft pick stash to transform the roster, leaning on input from second-year coach Joe Philbin. Gone are many players — such as Jake Long, Karlos Dansby, Reggie Bush and Davone Bess — who gave the Dolphins plenty of good games in recent seasons, but collectively, weren't good enough.

Miami will have at least nine new starters, including free agent signings Mike Wallace and Dannell Ellerbe, and first-round pick Dion Jordan. Even with all the additions, though, the Fins still might have issues in the secondary and along the offensive line, and they still need second-year quarterback Ryan Tannehill to take a giant leap forward.

"There's no doubt I feel like we're a better football team," Ireland says. "I think we've gotten faster in a lot of different areas. I think we've added some playmakers."

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Joe Philbin
RECORD WITH TEAM: 7-9
CAREER RECORD: 7-9
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Mike Sherman
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Kevin Coyle

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2008	11
2009	7
2010	7
2011	6
2012	7

Playoffs

BRIAN HARTLINE, WR

OFFENSE Do the Dolphins finally have their first franchise quarterback since Dan Marino? Maybe. Aided by the presence of his former Texas A&M coach Mike Sherman as the Dolphins' offensive coordinator, Tannehill ascended to the starting spot as a training camp rookie, and rarely looked overwhelmed by the assignment. Even so, he had little surrounding talent, and his overall performance was uneven, best evidenced by his underwhelming passer rating of 76.1. Miami actually slipped in points and yards per game from the previous season, when Matt Moore, now the backup, was the primary quarterback. Tannehill has the arm strength, mobility and feel for the position, and Sherman expects big improvement in his quarterback's second season.

The Dolphins believe Tannehill will have more help, even after letting Bush, their leading rusher and most dynamic playmaker, leave for Detroit. Lamar Miller, a fourth-round pick in Tannehill's draft class, flashed some potential as a rookie, and he will get the chance to carry the backfield burden. Daniel Thomas, a former second-rounder who has had trouble staying healthy or upright in his two seasons, is also in the mix.

Brian Hartline was re-signed to a rich contract after a breakout season in which he and Tannehill quickly developed chemistry, even if it didn't produce points. Now he can settle into the more appropriate role of second receiver. The top guy? That will be Wallace, who got nearly $30 million in guaranteed money to scare safeties, stretch the field and score touchdowns. Wallace's contract is relatively small in the first season, but it quintuples in size in 2014. To be worth that, he will need to do something he didn't in his fourth and final season in Pittsburgh — top 1,000 yards — and at least match his career average of eight touchdowns. At tight end, Dustin Keller brings more athletic ability to the position than the departed Anthony Fasano.

Mike Pouncey, one of the league's better centers, will be expected to lead the line, especially after Long, the former No. 1 overall pick, resisted a late Dolphins effort and signed with St. Louis. Richie Incognito, a wild card in prior stops, has actually been a steadying influence in Miami, and the massive John Jerry showed progress at the other guard spot last season. Jonathan Martin was the regular at right tackle as a rookie and, after bulking up in the offseason, likely will move to the left side to make room for veteran Tyson Clabo.

DEFENSE Over the past two seasons, the Dolphins ranked sixth and seventh in points allowed, hardly the sort of statistics that cry for a major overhaul. Still, there was some softness beneath the surface, with too few game-turning plays made when it mattered, especially on the edge and in the secondary. Kevin Coyle, in his second season as defensive coordinator, has been given plenty of new pieces to integrate into the 4-3 scheme he introduced in 2012.

The strength remains on the defensive front, where the electric Cameron Wake made the transition to putting his hand in the dirt and put up great numbers (15 sacks) without his teammates mustering much support. That was the inspiration for Ireland's decision to deal an extra second-round pick, move up nine spots, and grab the ultra-athletic Jordan. He played defensive end in high school, and finished his Oregon career as an outside linebacker. Ireland characterized Jordan as an every-down player, though that will depend on how quickly he recovers from offseason shoulder surgery and whether he can hold up against the run.

Miami should be set inside, with space-eater Paul Soliai and the versatile Randy Starks, though Starks missed some conditioning sessions due to a contract issue.

Tannehill, cheer: Tom DiPace; Hartline: AP Photo/Paul Connors

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

New look, better results? The fourth logo in the Dolphins' history lasted 16 seasons, and during that time, the Dolphins never played in an AFC Championship Game. The fifth — with a helmet-less dolphin — is accompanied by new uniforms.

Fast fingers Mike Wallace, the team's prized offseason acquisition, got himself in hot water on the day that NBA player Jason Collins revealed himself to be gay. He tweeted, "All these beautiful women in the world and guys wanna mess with other guys SMH…" He quickly deleted the tweet, but not before it created a stir, and the Dolphins felt the need to distance themselves with a statement.

Stay in line This offseason, the Dolphins purged themselves of most of their outspoken players, including the three (Karlos Dansby, Reggie Bush, Jake Long) who approached Joe Philbin about forming a Leadership Council last training camp. Fan favorite Davone Bess also got the boot, after the team believed he should have played through a back injury.

Total washout With the defection of Long to the Rams, none of the nine players the Dolphins drafted in 2008 remains on the roster. That was the first draft conducted by supposed savior Bill Parcells, with current GM Jeff Ireland his chief disciple. Only two players (Brian Hartline, Chris Clemons) remain from the 2009 draft, also under their direction.

Who's to blame? Owner Stephen Ross tends to make some odd comments, and even those who are not nostalgic for the Tony Sparano coaching era would have cause to question those he made to WAXY-FM in Miami. Ross said Sparano "damaged the whole organization" with his reaction to Ross pursuing then-Stanford coach Jim Harbaugh while Sparano was still employed in early 2011. "He could never put it behind him," Ross said.

Chain reaction During the season, a fan approached Ireland and suggested the GM fire himself. Ireland called the fan an expletive, setting off a chain reaction in South Florida: The fan called a radio station to share the story (while acknowledging his own lack of decorum), Ireland issued a statement of apology and other fans printed t-shirts.

Television star Few current Dolphins are household names outside South Florida, but a former star continues to make inroads in the media world. Jason Taylor, who retired after the 2011 season, has been a regular guest on the CNN show "(Get To) The Point."

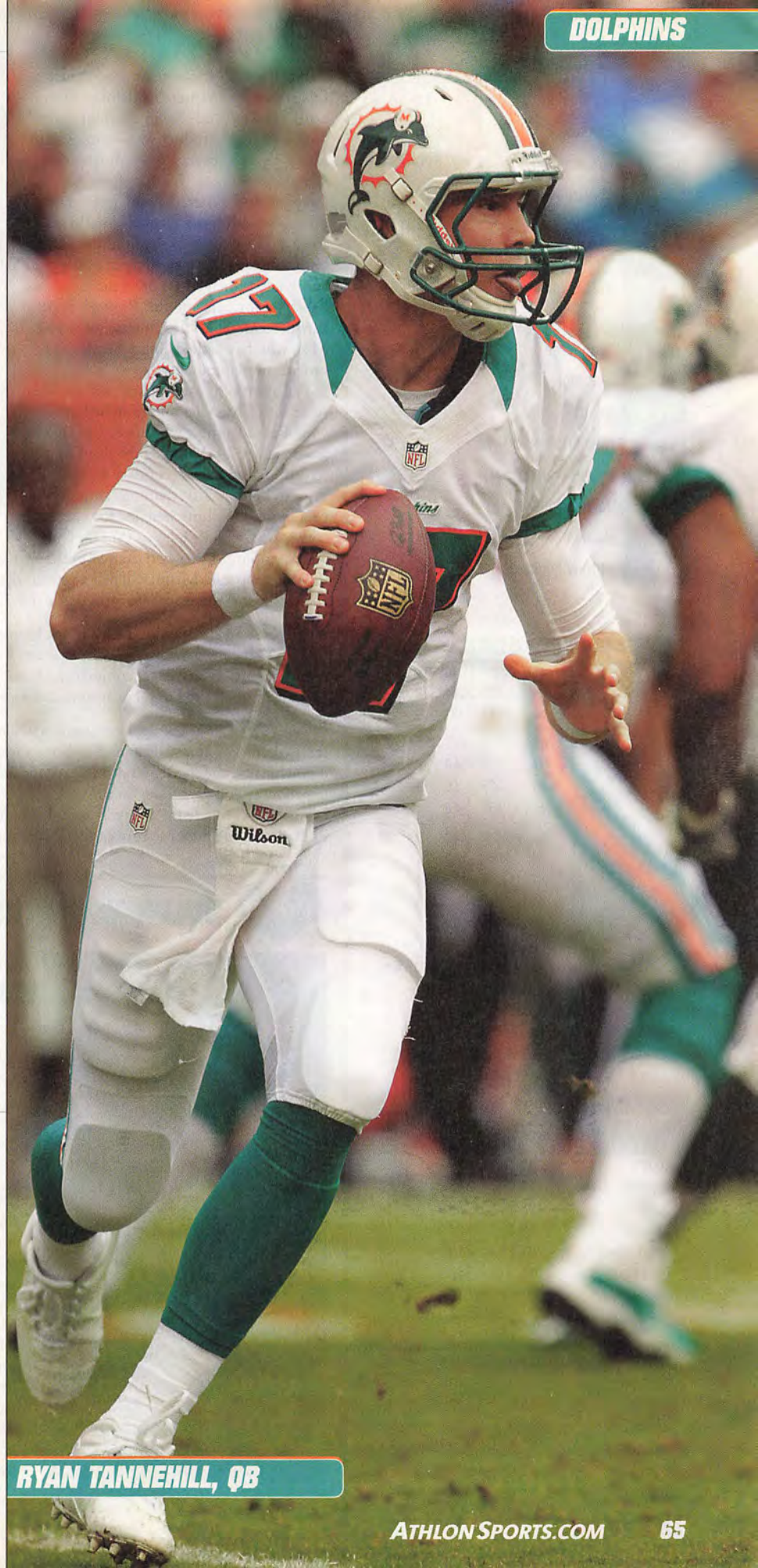
PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
LB	Dannell Ellerbe	Baltimore
WR	Brandon Gibson	St. Louis
CB	Brent Grimes	Atlanta
TE	Dustin Keller	N.Y. Jets
WR	Mike Wallace	Pittsburgh
LB	Philip Wheeler	Oakland

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
WR	Davone Bess	Cleveland
LB	Kevin Burnett	Oakland
RB	Reggie Bush	Detroit
LB	Karlos Dansby	Arizona
TE	Anthony Fasano	Kansas City
T	Jake Long	St. Louis
CB	Sean Smith	Kansas City



RYAN TANNEHILL, QB

2012 RESULTS (7–9)

Sept. 9	at Houston	L	10–30
Sept. 16	Oakland	W	35–13
Sept. 23	N.Y. Jets (ot)	L	20–23
Sept. 30	at Arizona (ot)	L	21–24
Oct. 7	at Cincinnati	W	17–13
Oct. 14	St. Louis	W	17–14
Oct. 28	at N.Y. Jets	W	30–9
Nov. 4	at Indianapolis	L	20–23
Nov. 11	Tennessee	L	3–37
Nov. 15	at Buffalo	L	14–19
Nov. 25	Seattle	W	24–21
Dec. 2	New England	L	16–23
Dec. 9	at San Francisco	L	13–27
Dec. 16	Jacksonville	W	24–3
Dec. 23	Buffalo	W	24–10
Dec. 30	at New England	L	0–28

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Ryan Tannehill	484	282	3,294	12	13
Matt Moore	19	11	131	1	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Reggie Bush	227	986	4.3	6
Daniel Thomas	91	325	3.6	4
Lamar Miller	51	250	4.9	1

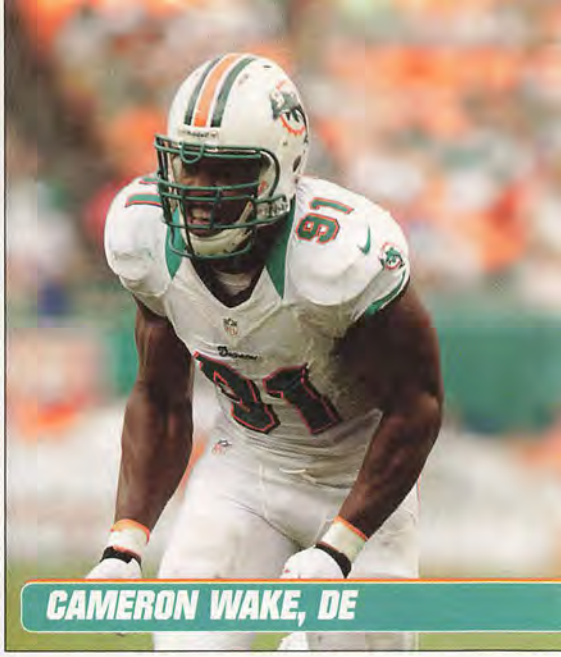
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Brian Hartline	74	1,083	14.6	1
Davone Bess	61	778	12.8	1
Anthony Fasano	41	332	8.1	5
Reggie Bush	35	292	8.3	2

KICKING: Dan Carpenter, 22-27 FGs, 26-26 XPs, 92 points
TACKLES: Karlos Dansby, 134; Kevin Burnett, 110
SACKS: Cameron Wake, 15; Jared Odrick, 5
INTERCEPTIONS: Reshad Jones, 4; Sean Smith, 2
FORCED FUMBLES: Cameron Wake, 3; Sean Smith, 3

2012 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	311.5	27	13
Rushing	112.6	17	8
Passing	198.9	26	14
Scoring	18.0	27	13
Third Down %	37.7	16	8
Punt Returns	11.2	6	5
Kick Returns	27.1	T2	2

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	356.8	21	10
Rushing	108.4	13	7
Passing	248.8	27	15
Scoring	19.8	7	3
Interceptions	10	T27	T14
Sacks	42.0	7	4
Turnover Differential	-10	T24	T11



The biggest offseason surprise came at linebacker. Few expected Miami to dump both Dansby and Kevin Burnett, after both had been productive — though, in Dansby's case, overpaid — during their Dolphins tenures. In an effort to get younger and faster, Miami aggressively pursued Baltimore's Dannell Ellerbe and Oakland's Philip Wheeler, and got them both. Wheeler can play all three positions, and Ellerbe emerged as one of the most reliable performers on the Ravens' Super Bowl squad. The third linebacker is Koa Misi, who has flashed ability but needs to provide more productivity.

The starters at safety likely will be the same with Chris Clemons re-signed to pair with Reshad Jones, who had a breakout season at age 24. Jones led the team in interceptions and the secondary in tackles. Prior to Philbin's first training camp, it appeared the Dolphins were set for years at cornerback, with the players (Vontae Davis and Sean Smith) they had drafted in the first and second rounds in 2009. Now, neither is on the roster. Instead, Miami will pair a veteran signing (Brent Grimes) and a second-round rookie (Jamar Taylor) to see if that works. It's better, but there still isn't much depth.

SPECIALISTS If Brandon Fields hasn't been the best punter over the past four seasons, he's been in that conversation. No worries there. Kicker Dan Carpenter, however, has become increasingly iffy, so he will get competition from fifth-round rookie Caleb Sturgis. Marcus Thigpen was an undrafted find last season, and he will be the primary returner again.

FINAL ANALYSIS For the first time in a while, there appeared to be a clear offseason plan for the Dolphins — throw picks and cash at a variety of problems, notably the lack of support for Tannehill and the speed on both sides of the ball. How will that translate to wins? That largely depends, as it always does, on the quarterback. If he makes the leap that his coaches project, Miami can compete for a playoff spot. If not, there will be more calls for Ireland's ouster and Philbin will be under pressure early in his tenure.

DOLPHINS IN THE DRAFT

B

RD PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1. Dion Jordan	DE	6-6	248	Oregon
2. Jamar Taylor	CB	5-11	192	Boise State
3. Dallas Thomas	G/T	6-5	306	Tennessee
3. Will Davis	CB	5-11	230	Utah State
4. Jelani Jenkins	LB	6-0	242	Florida
4. Dion Sims	TE	6-4	250	Michigan State
5. Mike Gillislee	RB	5-11	208	Florida
5. Caleb Sturgis	K	5-10	188	Florida
7. Don Jones	CB	5-11	190	Arkansas State

Jeff Ireland used his stockpile of picks to aggressively trade up for the explosive Dion Jordan, who will be expected to assist Cameron Wake in applying pressure from the edge. Jamar Taylor is a fundamentally sound player who joins a position of acute need. Caleb Sturgis, who has kicked in plenty of pressure situations, will compete with veteran Dan Carpenter. If Dion Sims can keep off the weight and stay out of trouble, he has the ability to become the big, fast outlet Ryan Tannehill needs. Dallas Thomas played left tackle in 2011, but figures to be a depth guy inside. Jelani Jenkins and Don Jones must show something on special teams, and Mike Gillislee — a good blocker and receiver — could secure a part-time role.

Wake: Tom DiPace; Jordan: Craig Mitchelldyer

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
7 Devlin, Pat	QB	6-3	225	2	Delaware	FA-11	FA-Mia-11
8 Moore, Matt	QB	6-3	216	6	Oregon State	FA-Car-11	FA-Dal-07
17 Tannehill, Ryan	QB	6-4	222	1	Texas A&M	D1-12	D1-Mia-12
RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
42 Clay, Charles	FB/TE	6-3	250	2	Tulsa	D6-11	D6-Mia-11
46 Gray, Jonas	RB	5-9	225	1	Notre Dame	FA-12	FA-Mia-12
41 Lane, Jorvorskie	FB	5-11	258	1	Texas A&M	FA-12	FA-Mia-12
26 Miller, Lamar	RB	5-10	218	1	Miami	D4-12	D4-Mia-12
34 Thigpen, Marcus	RB	5-9	195	1	Indiana	FA-12	FA-Phi-09
33 Thomas, Daniel	RB	6-1	233	2	Kansas State	D2-11	D2-Mia-11
RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
19 Binns, Armon	WR	6-3	209	1	Cincinnati	W-Cin-12	FA-Jac-11
84 Egnew, Michael	TE	6-5	255	1	Missouri	D3b-12	D3b-Mia-12
83 Fuller, Jeff	WR	6-4	223	1	Texas A&M	FA-12	FA-Mia-12
Gibson, Brandon	WR	6-0	205	4	Washington State	FA-StL-13	D6-Phi-09
82 Hartline, Brian	WR	6-2	199	4	Ohio State	D4-09	D4-Mia-09
81 Keller, Dustin	TE	6-2	250	5	Purdue	FA-NYJ-13	D1b-NYJ-08
86 Matthews, Rishard	WR	6-0	210	1	Nevada	D7b-12	D7b-Mia-12
87 Miller, Kyle	TE	6-5	260	1	Mount Union	W-Ind-12	FA-Jac-11
85 Tyms, Brian	WR	6-3	210	1	Florida A&M	FA-12	FA-SF-12
11 Wallace, Mike	WR	6-0	199	4	Ole Miss	FA-Pit-13	D3b-Pit-09
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
60 Adams, Jeff	T	6-7	305	1	Columbia	FA-12	FA-Dal-12
63 Burden, Chandler	G	6-4	313	1	Kentucky	FA-12	FA-Ten-12
Clabo, Tyson	T	6-6	329	8	Wake Forest	FA-Atl-13	FA-Den-04
75 Garner, Nate	G	6-7	325	5	Arkansas	W-NYJ-08	D7-NYJ-08
68 Incognito, Richie	G	6-3	319	8	Nebraska	FA-Buf-10	D3-StL-05
74 Jerry, John	G	6-5	345	3	Mississippi	D3-10	D3-Mia-10
Louis, Lance	G	6-3	320	4	San Diego State	FA-Chi-13	D7a-Chi-09
71 Martin, Jonathan	T	6-5	312	1	Stanford	D2-12	D2-Mia-12
67 McDonald, Andrew	T	6-6	310	1	Indiana	FA-12	FA-Mia-12
51 Pouncey, Mike	C	6-5	303	2	Florida	D1-11	D1-Mia-11
64 Samuda, Josh	G	6-3	315	1	Massachusetts	FA-12	FA-Mia-12
72 Yeatman, Will	T	6-6	270	2	Maryland	W-NE-11	FA-NE-11
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
66 Alexih, Chas	DT	6-3	304	1	Pittsburgh	FA-12	FA-Mia-12
Martin, Vaughn	DE	6-4	297	4	Western Ontario	FA-SD-13	D4a-SD-09
98 Odrick, Jared	DE	6-5	302	3	Penn State	D1-10	D1-Mia-10
97 Randall, Kheeston	DT	6-5	309	1	Texas	D7a-12	D7a-Mia-12
79 Shelby, Derrick	DE	6-2	270	1	Utah	FA-12	FA-Mia-12
96 Soliai, Paul	DT	6-4	345	6	Utah	D4-07	D4-Mia-07
94 Starks, Randy	DT	6-3	305	9	Maryland	FA-Ten-08	D3-Ten-04
50 Vernon, Olivier	DE	6-2	268	1	Miami	D3a-12	D3a-Mia-12
91 Wake, Cameron	DE	6-3	258	4	Penn State	FA-09	FA-NYG-05
LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
Ellerbe, Dannell	LB	6-1	240	4	Georgia	FA-Bal-13	FA-Bal-09
59 Freeny, Jonathan	LB	6-2	250	1	Rutgers	FA-12	FA-Mia-11
57 Kaddu, Josh	LB	6-3	242	1	Oregon	D5-12	D5-Mia-12
55 Misi, Koa	LB	6-3	257	3	Utah	D2-10	D2-Mia-10
52 Robinson, Lee	LB	6-2	253	1	Alcorn State	FA-13	FA-Den-09
53 Spitler, Austin	LB	6-2	250	3	Ohio State	D7b-10	D7b-Mia-10
93 Trusnik, Jason	LB	6-4	252	6	Ohio Northern	FA-Cle-11	FA-NYJ-07
Wheeler, Philip	LB	6-2	240	5	Georgia Tech	FA-Oak-13	D3-Ind-08
DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
28 Carroll, Nolan	CB	6-1	205	3	Maryland	D5a-10	D5a-Mia-10
30 Clemons, Chris	S	6-1	214	4	Clemson	D5b-09	D5b-Mia-09
20 Jones, Reshad	S	6-1	210	3	Georgia	D5b-10	D5b-Mia-10
Grimes, Brent	CB	5-10	183	5	Shippensburg	FA-Atl-13	FA-Atl-07
31 Marshall, Richard	CB	5-11	198	6	Fresno State	FA-Ari-12	D2-Car-06
37 McCray, Kelcie	S	6-1	200	1	Arkansas State	FA-12	FA-Mia-12
32 Patterson, Dimitri	CB	5-10	200	6	Tuskegee	W-Cle-12	FA-Was-05
38 Posey, Julian	CB	5-11	187	1	Ohio	FA-12	FA-NYJ-11
21 Presley, De'Andre	DB	5-10	185	1	Appalachian State	FA-12	FA-SD-12
25 Stanford, R.J.	CB	5-10	185	2	Utah	W-Car-12	D7a-Car-10
27 Wilson, Jimmy	S	5-11	205	2	Montana	D7b-11	D7b-Mia-11
SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
5 Carpenter, Dan	K	6-2	225	5	Montana	FA-08	FA-Mia-08
92 Denney, John	LS	6-5	255	8	BYU	FA-05	FA-Mia-05
2 Fields, Brandon	P	6-5	245	6	Michigan State	D7b-07	D7b-Mia-07
Scales, Patrick	LS	6-3	248	1	Utah State	FA-13	FA-Bal-12

Tom DiPace

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	11	Mike Wallace
		Brandon Gibson
WR	82	Brian Hartline
	86	Rishard Matthews
LT	71	Jonathan Martin
	60	Jeff Adams
LG	68	Richie Incognito
	70	Dallas Thomas (R)
C	51	Mike Pouncey
	64	Josh Samuda
RG	74	John Jerry
		Lance Louis
RT		Tyson Clabo
	75	Nate Garner
TE	81	Dustin Keller
	42	Charles Clay
QB	17	Ryan Tannehill
	8	Matt Moore
FB	41	Jorvorskie Lane
RB	26	Lamar Miller
	33	Daniel Thomas

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	91	Cameron Wake
	98	Jared Odrick
DT	94	Randy Starks
	97	Kheeston Randall
DT	96	Paul Soliai
		Vaughn Martin
DE	95	Dion Jordan (R)
	50	Olivier Vernon
OLB	55	Koa Misi
	93	Jason Trusnik
MLB		Dannell Ellerbe
	53	Austin Spitler
OLB		Philip Wheeler
	59	Jonathan Freeny
CB		Brent Grimes
	28	Nolan Carroll
CB	22	Jamar Taylor (R)
	31	Richard Marshall
SS	20	Reshad Jones
	36	Don Jones (R)
FS	30	Chris Clemons
	27	Jimmy Wilson

SPECIALISTS

K	5	Dan Carpenter
P	2	Brandon Fields
KR	34	Marcus Thigpen
PR	34	Marcus Thigpen

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
Ryan Tannehill, QB

DEEP-SLEEPER
Dion Sims, TE

OVERVALUED
Brian Hartline, WR

TOP ROOKIE
Mike Gillislee, RB

BOUNCE-BACK
Dustin Keller, TE

TOP IDP
Cameron Wake, DE

For more Fantasy, visit **AthlonSports.com/fantasy** or follow **@AthlonSports** on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 8	at Cleveland	1:00	5-11	314.2 (25)	363.8 (23)	18.9 (24)	23.0 (19)
2	Sept. 15	at Indianapolis	1:00	11-5	362.4 (10)	374.2 (26)	22.3 (18)	24.2 (21)
3	Sept. 22	Atlanta	4:05	13-3	369.1 (8)	365.6 (24)	26.2 (7)	18.7 (5)
4	Sept. 30	at New Orleans (Mon.)	8:40	7-9	410.9 (2)	440.1 (32)	28.8 (3)	28.4 (31)
5	Oct. 6	Baltimore	1:00	10-6	352.5 (16)	350.9 (17)	24.9 (10)	21.5 (12)
6		BYE						
7	Oct. 20	Buffalo	1:00	6-10	342.9 (19)	362.9 (22)	21.5 (21)	27.2 (26)
8	Oct. 27	at New England	1:00	12-4	427.9 (1)	373.2 (25)	34.8 (1)	20.7 (9)
9	Oct. 31	Cincinnati (Thu.)	8:25	10-6	332.7 (22)	319.7 (6)	24.4 (12)	20.0 (8)
10	Nov. 11	at Tampa Bay (Mon.)	8:40	7-9	363.8 (9)	379.9 (29)	24.3 (13)	24.6 (23)
11	Nov. 17	San Diego	1:00	7-9	297.2 (31)	326.4 (9)	21.9 (20)	21.9 (16)
12	Nov. 24	Carolina	1:00	7-9	360.7 (12)	333.1 (10)	22.3 (18)	22.7 (18)
13	Dec. 1	at N.Y. Jets	1:00	6-10	299.2 (30)	323.4 (8)	17.6 (28)	23.4 (20)
14	Dec. 8	at Pittsburgh	1:00	8-8	332.7 (21)	275.8 (1)	21.0 (22)	19.6 (6)
15	Dec. 15	New England	1:00	12-4	427.9 (1)	373.2 (25)	34.8 (1)	20.7 (9)
16	Dec. 22	at Buffalo	1:00	6-10	342.9 (19)	362.9 (22)	21.5 (21)	27.2 (26)
17	Dec. 29	N.Y. Jets	1:00	6-10	299.2 (30)	323.4 (8)	17.6 (28)	23.4 (20)

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

AFC EAST FORECAST 1

See more cheerleaders by visiting AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

THE ORGANIZATION

CHAIRMAN/CEO: Robert Kraft
PRESIDENT: Jonathan Kraft
GENERAL MANAGER: Bill Belichick
STADIUM: Gillette Stadium (68,756)
SURFACE: FieldTurf
WEBSITE: www.patriots.com
TICKETS: 800-543-1776
TRAINING CAMP: Gillette Stadium (Foxboro, Mass.)

The Patriots' championship window, or at least the Tom Brady era, is approaching its end, but there is no reason to believe that another AFC East title isn't on the way this season. The Bills, Jets and Dolphins do not appear ready to challenge the Patriots, setting up New England for its fifth straight playoff appearance. The Patriots lost one of the league's most dangerous weapons in the offseason in wide receiver Wes Welker, and there are legitimate questions on defense. But this team is not ready to fall out of the league's elite quite yet.

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Bill Belichick
RECORD WITH TEAM: 151-57
CAREER RECORD: 187-101
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Josh McDaniels
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Matt Patricia

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

ROB GRONKOWSKI, TE

OFFENSE The Patriots' recent regular-season dominance on offense has been nothing short of astounding. The Pats led the league in points in 2012 with 34.8 per game, scoring over 500 points for the third consecutive year (matched only by the 1999-2001 Rams). They also led in yards per game with 427.9, giving them six straight seasons in the league's top 10. Brady led the team to six games of 40 points or more (including the playoffs), and the team matched a franchise record by scoring 59 against the Colts.

Will the success carry over into 2013? With Brady back for his 14th season, the prospects look good, but the biggest obstacle will be overcoming the loss of Welker, who signed a free agent contract with the Broncos in the offseason. Welker led the Patriots in receptions in each of his six seasons in New England, leading the league three times. Welker had 118 catches in 2012, which was 44 more than Pats' No. 2 receiver Brandon Lloyd (who also is gone). Danny Amendola, signed from the Rams, is slated to fill Welker's role in the slot, and he appears to be a good fit. The 27-year-old Amendola, however, has played in only 12 games the past two seasons due to injuries after a productive 2010 that saw him catch 85 passes. He must stay healthy if the Patriots hope to have him replace Welker's productivity.

The rest of the receiving corps is also an unknown. The Pats drafted Aaron Dobson and Josh Boyce and signed veterans Michael Jenkins and Donald Jones, but none of those four can be deemed dependable playmakers.

The Patriots do have two of the better tight ends in the league in Pro Bowlers Rob Gronkowski and Aaron Hernandez, but both have health issues. Gronkowski has had multiple surgeries on a forearm that limited him late last season, and Hernandez underwent offseason shoulder surgery. Both are expected to be OK by the time the preseason rolls around, and when healthy, they comprise as good of a tight end tandem as there is in the NFL and are key components to the Pats' passing attack.

The Patriots' offensive line returns intact, led by five-time Pro Bowler Logan Mankins. Stevan Ridley is expected to lead the rushing attack after his 1,263-yard, 12-touchdown performance in 2012. He will be supported by Shane Vereen, who had just 62 carries in the regular season but exploded for 124 total yards and three touchdowns in the Pats' 41–28 playoff win over the Texans. The Patriots added to their backfield depth by trading for former 1,000-yard rusher LeGarrette Blount.

DEFENSE The Patriots' defense has been cited as the reason the team has not won a championship since 2004. The criticism has generally been fair, although in their two Super Bowl losses since 2004 the defense gave up only 17 and 21 points, respectively. Still, that side of the ball has lagged behind the offense, and efforts have been made to get it back to the championship-level unit it was in the early 2000s. The Pats jumped from 15th in the league in points allowed to tied for ninth in 2012, but they were 25th in yards allowed and need improvement in several areas.

That starts with defending the pass, where the Pats were 29th, allowing 271.4 yards per game. The re-signing of cornerback Aqib Talib to a one-year contract was critical. He immediately bolstered the beleaguered secondary after his midseason arrival last year, and the team clearly suffered when he went out early in the AFC title game against the Ravens. The Patriots also brought in veteran safety Adrian Wilson from the Cardinals and drafted cornerback Logan Ryan from Rutgers to improve the secondary. Second-round draft pick Jamie Collins is labeled an edge-rusher, acquired to complement defensive ends Rob Ninkovich and Chandler Jones, whose efforts helped the Patriots rank 15th in sacks last season.

The Patriots were better against the run last season, ranking ninth, thanks to the efforts of stalwart defensive tackle Vince Wilfork and the All-SEC linebacking crew of Jerod Mayo (Tennessee), Brandon Spikes (Florida) and Dont'a Hightower (Alabama). Most of the off-

Brady, Gronkowski: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Cheer: Ric Fogel

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Brady chases Brees Tom Brady has thrown at least one touchdown pass in 48 straight regular-season games, six shy of the NFL record set by Drew Brees in 2012. Brady will have a chance to tie Brees' record vs. the Saints in Week 6 at home.

Home sweet home When the Patriots lost to the Cardinals 20–18 last season, it marked the first time in 17 years that the Patriots had lost at home to a team that eventually finished with a losing record.

Made for TV Despite having 15 of their 16 games in the Eastern time zone, the Patriots will have just eight 1 p.m. kickoffs, with prime-time dates against the Jets, Falcons, Panthers, Broncos and Ravens.

Tom and Peyton Should both quarterbacks stay healthy, the Tom Brady-Peyton Manning rivalry is set for its 14th installment on Nov. 24 in Foxboro. Brady holds a 9–4 edge, including last season's 31–21 home win over Manning's Broncos.

Brotherly love Defensive end Chandler Jones did not hold any grudges over the Patriots' loss to the Ravens in the AFC Championship Game. He and his brother, Art, who plays defensive line for the Ravens, got together to support the third professional athlete in their family in late April. Chandler and Art were in attendance at UFC 159, where Jon 'Bones' Jones defended his mixed martial arts light heavyweight title against Chael Sonnen in Newark, N.J.

Scarlet Patriots The Patriots drafted three players off the Rutgers defense in cornerback Logan Ryan, safety Duron Harmon and linebacker Steve Beauharnais. Rutgers ranked 10th in the nation in total defense. With Rutgers alum Devin McCourty already slated at one safety slot, the Patriots could have three Scarlet Knights in the secondary at once. Belichick's son, Steve, is an entry-level assistant on the Patriots' staff and played four years of lacrosse and one year of football (2011) at Rutgers.

Marathon support Patriots owner Robert Kraft pledged to donate $617,000 to the One Fund, a charity dedicated to the victims of the Boston Marathon bombings, in reference to Boston area code 617. Kraft also sent former lineman Joe Andruzzi to Radio City Music Hall for the NFL Draft on behalf of the Patriots. Andruzzi, who was at the marathon finish line and was photographed carrying a victim after the explosions, thanked first-responders and displayed a Patriots jersey with the number "617" and the words "Boston Strong."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
WR	Danny Amendola	St. Louis
RB	LeGarrette Blount	Tampa Bay
WR	Michael Jenkins	Minnesota
WR	Donald Jones	Buffalo
DT	Tommy Kelly	Oakland
T	Will Svitek	Atlanta
KR	Leon Washington	Seattle
S	Adrian Wilson	Arizona

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
S	Patrick Chung	Philadelphia
WR	Brandon Lloyd	Free Agent
G	Donald Thomas	Indianapolis
WR	Wes Welker	Denver
RB	Danny Woodhead	San Diego

TOM BRADY, QB

2012 RESULTS (12-4)

Sept. 9	at Tennessee	W	34–13
Sept. 16	Arizona	L	18–20
Sept. 23	at Baltimore	L	30–31
Sept. 30	at Buffalo	W	52–28
Oct. 7	Denver	W	31–21
Oct. 14	at Seattle	L	23–24
Oct. 21	N.Y. Jets (ot)	W	29–26
Oct. 28	at St. Louis	W	45–7
Nov. 11	Buffalo	W	37–31
Nov. 18	Indianapolis	W	59–24
Nov. 22	at N.Y. Jets	W	49–19
Dec. 2	at Miami	W	23–16
Dec. 10	Houston	W	42–14
Dec. 16	San Francisco	L	34–41
Dec. 23	at Jacksonville	W	23–16
Dec. 30	Miami	W	28–0
Postseason			
Jan. 13	Houston	W	41–28
Jan. 20	Baltimore	L	13–28

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Tom Brady	637	401	4,827	34	8
Ryan Mallett	4	1	17	0	1

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Stevan Ridley	290	1,263	4.4	12
Danny Woodhead	76	301	4.0	4
Shane Vereen	62	251	4.0	3
Brandon Bolden	56	274	4.9	2

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Wes Welker	118	1,354	11.5	6
Brandon Lloyd	74	911	12.3	4
Rob Gronkowski	55	790	14.4	11
Aaron Hernandez	51	483	9.5	5

KICKING: Stephen Gostkowski, 29-35 FGs, 66-66 XPs, 153 points

TACKLES: Jerod Mayo, 147; Brandon Spikes, 92

SACKS: Rob Ninkovich, 8; Chandler Jones, 6

INTERCEPTIONS: Devin McCourty, 5; Tavon Wilson, 4

FORCED FUMBLES: Brandon Spikes 5; Rob Ninkovich, 5

2012 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	427.9	1	1
Rushing	136.5	7	3
Passing	291.4	4	1
Scoring	34.8	1	1
Third Down %	48.7	1	1
Punt Returns	12.0	5	4
Kick Returns	21.2	25	15

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	373.2	25	13
Rushing	101.9	9	5
Passing	271.4	29	16
Scoring	20.7	T9	T5
Interceptions	20	T5	1
Sacks	37.0	T15	T8
Turnover Differential	+25	1	1

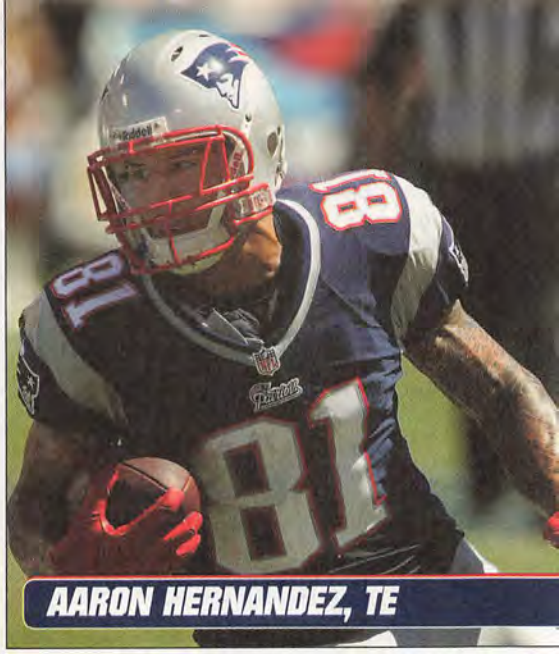
season acquisitions focused on the secondary, meaning that the staff is confident the front seven will improve with experience.

The Patriots were able to compensate for the poor ranking in total yardage last season by forcing 41 turnovers — en route to a league-leading plus-25 turnover margin — and scoring five defensive touchdowns.

SPECIALISTS Stephen Gostkowski enters his eighth season and is as solid as ever. Gostkowski has made 84 percent of his career field goals and was 11-of-15 from beyond 40 in 2012.

Punter Zoltan Mesko returns for a fourth season after seeing a dip in his net punting to 37.9 yards, although he was able to put 47 percent of his kicks inside the 20.

The Patriots added veteran return man Leon Washington to improve what had been a stagnant return game. Washington shares the NFL record for career kickoff returns for TDs with eight and averaged 29 yards per return with the Seahawks last season.


AARON HERNANDEZ, TE

FINAL ANALYSIS The keys for the Patriots to challenge for a Super Bowl title will be to get production out of a revamped wide receiver corps and for the pass defense to make major strides. Brady is still one of the most efficient and dangerous quarterbacks in the game, and the offensive line, running backs and tight ends are all known quantities from last season's dominating offense. If Amendola can stay healthy and one of the rookie wideouts can emerge, the Patriots should put up over 30 points per game again. Defensively, having Talib for a full season and starting Devin McCourty as a full-time safety rather than moving him around should stabilize what has been a glaring weakness for a few years. Adding a pass-rush specialist and two defensive backs in the early rounds of the draft demonstrates the team's concern about its pass defense.

Can Brady and Belichick capture that elusive fourth Super Bowl ring? They will not be a preseason favorite, but they should be in the mix once again next January.

NFL DRAFT 2013 PATRIOTS IN THE DRAFT

RD PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
2. Jamie Collins	LB	6-3	250	Southern Miss
2. Aaron Dobson	WR	6-3	210	Marshall
3. Logan Ryan	CB	5-11	198	Rutgers
3. Duron Harmon	S	6-1	200	Rutgers
4. Josh Boyce	WR	5-11	206	TCU
7. Michael Buchanan	DE	6-5	255	Illinois
7. Steve Beauharnais	LB	6-1	240	Rutgers

For the second straight year, the Patriots devoted almost the entire draft to the defensive side of the ball, but the players who may actually make the biggest immediate impact will be the two wide receivers. Aaron Dobson and Josh Boyce will each have a chance to start right away on the outside with Brandon Lloyd and Deion Branch not returning. Dobson was part of the No. 1 passing offense in the NCAA last year at Marshall, and Boyce ran a 4.38 40 at the combine after catching 27 touchdowns in three years at TCU. Logan Ryan should at least be the nickel corner from Day 1. Michael Buchanan is an athletic pass-rusher who many thought would go in the fourth or fifth round. Some off-the-field incidents hurt his stock, and the Patriots gladly scooped him up in the seventh round.

Hernandez: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Collins: AP Photo/Michael Dwyer

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
12 Brady, Tom	QB	6-4	225	13	Michigan	D6b-00	D6b-NE-00
Kafka, Mike	QB	6-3	225	2	Northwestern	FA-13	D4-Phi-11
15 Mallett, Ryan	QB	6-6	245	2	Arkansas	D3b-11	D3b-NE-11

RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
27 Blount, LeGarrette	RB	6-0	247	3	Oregon	T-TB-13	FA-Ten-10
38 Bolden, Brandon	RB	5-11	220	1	Ole Miss	FA-12	FA-NE-12
46 Develin, James	RB	6-3	251	1	Brown	FA-12	FA-Cin-10
22 Ridley, Stevan	RB	5-11	220	2	LSU	D3a-11	D3a-NE-11
34 Vereen, Shane	RB	5-9	205	2	California	D2b-11	D2b-NE-11
Washington, Leon	RB	5-8	203	7	Florida State	FA-Sea-13	D4-NYJ-06

RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
16 Aiken, Kamar	WR	6-2	213	2	UCF	FA-12	FA-Buf-11
Amendola, Danny	WR	5-11	188	3	Texas Tech	FA-StL-13	FA-Dal-08
88 Ballard, Jake	TE	6-6	275	2	Ohio State	W-NYG-12	FA-NYG-10
11 Edelman, Julian	WR	5-10	200	4	Kent State	D7a-09	D7a-NE-09
86 Fells, Daniel	TE	6-4	265	6	UC Davis	FA-Den-12	FA-Atl-06
87 Gronkowski, Rob	TE	6-6	265	3	Arizona	D2a-10	D2a-NE-10
83 Hawkins, Lavelle	WR	5-11	194	5	California	FA-Ten-13	D4b-Ten-08
81 Hernandez, Aaron	TE	6-1	245	3	Florida	D4-10	D4-NE-10
47 Hoomanawanui, M.	TE	6-4	263	3	Illinois	FA-12	D5-StL-10
Jenkins, Michael	WR	6-4	214	9	Ohio State	FA-Min-13	D1-Atl-04
Jones, Donald	WR	6-0	208	3	Youngstown State	FA-Buf-13	FA-Buf-10
18 Slater, Matthew	WR	6-0	210	5	UCLA	D5-08	D5-NE-08

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
61 Cannon, Marcus	OL	6-5	340	2	TCU	D5a-11	D5a-NE-11
63 Connolly, Dan	OL	6-4	310	7	SE Missouri St.	FA-Jac-08	FA-Jac-05
Green, Tyronne	G	6-2	316	4	Auburn	FA-SD-13	D4b-SD-09
70 Mankins, Logan	G	6-4	310	8	Fresno State	D1-05	D1-NE-05
65 McDonald, Nick	OL	6-4	305	3	Grand Valley St.	FA-11	FA-GB-10
77 Solder, Nate	T	6-8	320	2	Colorado	D1-11	D1-NE-11
Svitek, Will	T	6-6	308	7	Stanford	FA-Atl-13	D6-KC-05
76 Vollmer, Sebastian	T	6-8	320	4	Houston	D2d-09	D2d-NE-09
62 Wendell, Ryan	OL	6-2	300	4	Fresno State	FA-08	FA-NE-08
66 Zusevics, Markus	OL	6-5	300	1	Iowa	FA-12	FA-NE-12

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
97 Armstead, Armond	DT	6-5	290	R	USC	FA-CFL-13	FA-CFL-13
92 Bequette, Jake	DE	6-5	265	1	Arkansas	D3-12	D3-NE-12
96 Cunningham, Jermaine	DE	6-3	255	3	Florida	D2b-10	D2b-NE-10
98 Forston, Marcus	DL	6-3	305	1	Miami	FA-12	FA-NE-12
94 Francis, Justin	DL	6-4	270	1	Rutgers	FA-12	FA-NE-12
95 Jones, Chandler	DE	6-5	260	1	Syracuse	D1a-12	D1a-NE-12
Kelly, Tommy	DT	6-6	325	9	Mississippi State	FA-Oak-13	FA-Oak-04
50 Ninkovich, Rob	DL	6-2	260	7	Purdue	FA-09	D5-NO-06
75 Wilfork, Vince	DL	6-2	325	9	Miami	D1a-04	D1a-NE-04

LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
52 Fletcher, Dane	LB	6-2	245	3	Montana State	FA-10	FA-NE-10
54 Hightower, Dont'a	LB	6-3	270	1	Alabama	D1b-12	D1b-NE-12
90 Koutouvides, Niko	LB	6-2	245	9	Purdue	FA-12	D4-Sea-04
51 Mayo, Jerod	LB	6-1	250	5	Tennessee	D1-08	D1-NE-08
59 Rivera, Mike	LB	6-2	255	1	Kansas	FA-12	FA-Chi-09
55 Spikes, Brandon	LB	6-2	255	3	Florida	D2c-10	D2c-NE-10
53 Tarpinian, Jeff	LB	6-3	240	2	Iowa	FA-11	FA-NE-11

DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
24 Arrington, Kyle	CB	5-10	195	4	Hofstra	FA-09	FA-Phi-08
23 Cole, Marquice	CB	5-10	195	4	Northwestern	FA-NYJ-12	FA-Oak-07
37 Dennard, Alfonzo	DB	5-10	200	1	Nebraska	D7a-12	D7a-NE-12
21 Dowling, Ras-I	CB	6-1	210	2	Virginia	D2a-11	D2a-NE-11
43 Ebner, Nate	DB	6-0	210	1	Ohio State	D6-12	D6-NE-12
28 Gregory, Steve	S	5-11	200	7	Syracuse	FA-SD-12	FA-SD-06
32 McCourty, Devin	DB	5-10	195	3	Rutgers	D1-10	D1-NE-10
31 Talib, Aqib	CB	6-1	205	5	Kansas	T-TB-12	D1-TB-08
Wilson, Adrian	SS	6-3	230	12	NC State	FA-Ari-13	D3-Ari-01
27 Wilson, Tavon	DB	6-0	210	1	Illinois	D2-12	D2-NE-12
26 Winfield, Antoine	CB	5-9	180	14	Ohio State	FA-Min-13	D1-Buf-99

SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
48 Aiken, Danny	LS	6-4	260	2	Virginia	W-Buf-11	FA-Buf-11
3 Gostkowski, Stephen	K	6-1	215	7	Memphis	D4b-06	D4b-NE-06
14 Mesko, Zoltan	P	6-5	230	3	Michigan	D5-10	D5-NE-10

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR		Danny Amendola
	11	Julian Edelman
WR	17	Aaron Dobson (R)
	82	Josh Boyce (R)
LT	77	Nate Solder
		Will Svitek
LG	70	Logan Mankins
		Tyronne Green
C	62	Ryan Wendell
	65	Nick McDonald
RG	63	Dan Connolly
	65	Nick McDonald
RT	76	Sebastian Vollmer
		Will Svitek
TE	87	Rob Gronkowski
	88	Jake Ballard
TE	81	Aaron Hernandez
	47	Michael Hoomanawanui
QB	12	Tom Brady
	15	Ryan Mallett
RB	22	Stevan Ridley
	34	Shane Vereen

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	50	Rob Ninkovich
	92	Jake Bequette
DT	75	Vince Wilfork
	97	Armond Armstead
DT		Tommy Kelly
	97	Armond Armstead
DE	95	Chandler Jones
	96	Jermaine Cunningham
LB	51	Jerod Mayo
	59	Mike Rivera
LB	55	Brandon Spikes
	52	Dane Fletcher
LB	54	Dont'a Hightower
	91	Jamie Collins (R)
CB	31	Aqib Talib
	26	Logan Ryan (R)
CB	37	Alfonzo Dennard
	24	Kyle Arrington
S		Adrian Wilson
	28	Steve Gregory
S	32	Devin McCourty
	27	Tavon Wilson

SPECIALISTS

K	3	Stephen Gostkowski
P	14	Zoltan Mesko

KR		Leon Washington
PR		Leon Washington

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
Shane Vereen, RB

DEEP-SLEEPER
Josh Boyce, WR

OVERVALUED
Aaron Hernandez, TE

TOP ROOKIE
Aaron Dobson, WR

BOUNCE-BACK
Aqib Talib, CB

TOP IDP
Jerod Mayo, LB

For more Fantasy, visit **AthlonSports.com/fantasy** or follow **@AthlonSports** on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 8	at Buffalo	1:00	6-10	342.9(19)	362.9(22)	21.5(21)	27.2(26)
2	Sept. 12	N.Y. Jets (Thu.)	8:25	6-10	299.2(30)	323.4 (8)	17.6(28)	23.4(20)
3	Sept. 22	Tampa Bay	1:00	7-9	363.8 (9)	379.9(29)	24.3(13)	24.6(23)
4	Sept. 29	at Atlanta	8:30	13-3	369.1 (8)	365.6(24)	26.2 (7)	18.7 (5)
5	Oct. 6	at Cincinnati	1:00	10-6	332.7(22)	319.7 (6)	24.4(12)	20.0 (8)
6	Oct. 13	New Orleans	4:25	7-9	410.9 (2)	440.1(32)	28.8 (3)	28.4(31)
7	Oct. 20	at N.Y. Jets	1:00	6-10	299.2(30)	323.4 (8)	17.6(28)	23.4(20)
8	Oct. 27	Miami	1:00	7-9	311.5(27)	356.8(21)	18.0(27)	19.8 (7)
9	Nov. 3	Pittsburgh	4:25	8-8	332.7(21)	275.8 (1)	21.0(22)	19.6 (6)
10		BYE						
11	Nov. 18	at Carolina (Mon.)	8:40	7-9	360.7(12)	333.1(10)	22.3(18)	22.7(18)
12	Nov. 24	Denver	8:30	13-3	397.9 (4)	290.8 (2)	30.1 (2)	18.1 (4)
13	Dec. 1	at Houston	4:25	12-4	372.1 (7)	323.2 (7)	26.0 (8)	20.7 (9)
14	Dec. 8	Cleveland	1:00	5-11	314.2(25)	363.8(23)	18.9(24)	23.0(19)
15	Dec. 15	at Miami	1:00	7-9	311.5(27)	356.8(21)	18.0(27)	19.8 (7)
16	Dec. 22	at Baltimore	8:30	10-6	352.5(16)	350.9(17)	24.9(10)	21.5(12)
17	Dec. 29	Buffalo	1:00	6-10	342.9(19)	362.9(22)	21.5(21)	27.2(26)

NEW YORK JETS

AFC EAST FORECAST 3

See more cheerleaders by visiting AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

THE ORGANIZATION

CHAIRMAN/CEO: Woody Johnson
PRESIDENT: Neil Glat
GENERAL MANAGER: John Idzik
ASSISTANT GM: Scott Cohen
STADIUM: MetLife Stadium (82,556)
SURFACE: FieldTurf
WEBSITE: www.newyorkjets.com
TICKETS: 800-469-5387
TRAINING CAMP: SUNY at Cortland (Cortland, N.Y.)

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Rex Ryan
RECORD WITH TEAM: 34-30
CAREER RECORD: 34-30
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Marty Mornhinweg
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Dennis Thurman

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

Playoffs

Six starters fled the Jets in free agency, including their top running back and two safeties. Their best player, one of the great shutdown cornerbacks in football, was traded to Tampa Bay just prior to the draft. Their big free agent signing was a 35-year-old quarterback who retired in May. Owner Woody Johnson fired his general manager right after the 6–10 season but retained Rex Ryan for his final contract year, turning him into a lame-duck coach.

This has all the makings of a rebuilding season at best and a mess of a year at worst.

Despite heading into a win-or-else season with an uncertain quarterback situation, offensive backfield in flux, and an exodus that left the defense in shambles, Ryan doesn't look at 2013 as a rebuilding season.

"I think (other teams) should be worried about us a lot more than they are," Ryan says. "We'll see what kind of team our opponents get to play, and I'm excited about it."

He might as well be. A winning record seems like a daunting challenge, especially in light of a five-game stretch starting in Week 5 against Atlanta, Pittsburgh, New England, Cincinnati and New Orleans. Even without the Tim Tebow albatross, Ryan has plenty of pressure on him in 2013, not the least of which is his job security under a new GM. The quarterback position is no closer to being solved, and the rest of the offense is just as underwhelming. Meanwhile, the Jets were dealt a psychological blow with the trade of lockdown corner Darrelle Revis to the Buccaneers. This has all the makings for another long year in New York.

MARK SANCHEZ, QB

OFFENSE Ryan's enthusiasm could turn to despair quickly if keeping Mark Sanchez around backfires. Sanchez, to whom former GM Mike Tannenbaum handed a three-year extension with $20.5 million of guaranteed money prior to last season, took the first snap of minicamp, though second-round draft pick Geno Smith is poised to give him some competition in the summer. The Jets signed veteran David Garrard in March and had planned on giving him a legitimate chance to win the job, but he announced in mid May that he was retiring due to ongoing issues with his knees. So that leaves Sanchez as the likely Week 1 starter, but he may struggle in new offensive coordinator Marty Mornhinweg's system. Timing and touch are essential in the West Coast offense, areas in which Sanchez has shown little comfort level the past two years.

Regardless of who starts at quarterback, he won't have many targets out there. Jeremy Kerley is good, and when healthy, Santonio Holmes is better. But Holmes is returning from season-ending foot surgery and will take a limited workload through training camp.

The running back picture became much more interesting when the Jets traded their fourth-round pick to New Orleans for bruising veteran Chris Ivory. He can punish a defense and has a 5.1 yards-per-carry career average. But injuries and his failure to exhibit significant receiving ability out of the backfield could make him miscast in Mornhinweg's system. The Jets might end up starting free agent pickup Mike Goodson, whose pass-catching ability complements a 4.5-yard career average. Holdover Bilal Powell is also a candidate. He caught 17 passes and rushed for 437 yards and four touchdowns as a backup last year. Whatever they do, the Jets have to improve their 3.8 yards-per-carry average, which ranked 23rd in the league. In the end, Goodson — with his ability to run and catch — may be the best option.

The offensive line is also in transition, with underachieving Vladimir Ducasse likely to move into the right guard spot to replace Brandon Moore, who departed in free agency. Willie Colon, a seven-year veteran who started 11 games at left guard for the Steelers last year after missing all but one game the two previous seasons, signed with the Jets in the offseason. He should help improve the blind side.

DEFENSE After a dramatic trade-him-or-don't-trade-him decision in the front office, the Jets eventually sent Revis to Tampa Bay for the No. 13 pick in the 2013 draft and a conditional selection in 2014. The Jets then used the ninth overall pick to draft a corner in Alabama's Dee Milliner. The Jets only partially replaced the other key personnel losses, starting with free agent acquisition of former San Diego linebacker Antwan Barnes, who had 18.5 sacks over the last three seasons. He dropped from 11 sacks in 2011 to just three in an injury-shortened 2012. But he is familiar with Ryan, having played for him in Baltimore in 2007. That's a plus, since Ryan will return to calling his own defensive plays. And Ryan will need Barnes to boost a pass rush

Athlon Sports

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Brotherly love The first thing the Jets did after safety LaRon Landry departed to Indianapolis as a free agent was to call Landry's older brother, Dawan. Not only do the bloodlines exist, but the roots to the head coach also run deep. Dawan had two of his best years while playing for Rex Ryan in Baltimore, with five picks and 11 passes defended as a rookie in 2006 and 82 tackles in 2007.

Crash course Knowing he'll have to excel in Marty Mornhinweg's West Coast offense to retain his starting job, Mark Sanchez took some offseason tutoring from a guy well-versed in the system — Jeff Garcia. The former 49ers and Eagles quarterback, who had his best year in 2000 playing for Mornhinweg in San Francisco, coached Sanchez on terminology, footwork and pass routes, and noted great progress. "I've tried to emphasize to Mark, it's a rhythm and timing system," the 43-year-old Garcia says. "The ball has to come out of your hand on time. And you have to be so precise in everything."

Straight talk Pro Bowl cornerback Antonio Cromartie left no doubt about where he stood on John Idzik's decision to trade Darrelle Revis to the Bucs. "It sucks," Cromartie says. "That's my reaction. It sucks. A leader in the locker room, a leader in the classroom, a leader on the field. A great playmaker on the field. It just sucks losing a guy like that."

Changing allegiances Oday Aboushi grew up a New York Giants fan. But the Staten Island-bred product out of the University of Virginia didn't have a problem making a quick adjustment when the Jets took him with the 141st overall pick. "That definitely changed in a five-minute span," the 6'5", 308-pound Aboushi said after he strained to hear the pick over the screams of his nine siblings at home.

Big addition Largely because of salary cap issues, the Jets couldn't afford to sign any big names in free agency. But they did sign a big body in 315-pound former Steelers guard Willie Colon. The local product — he played at Hofstra — fills a gap on the O-line depth chart created by the departures of Matt Slauson and Brandon Moore. He should start at left guard. The caveat is his health, as injuries to his back, Achilles tendon, and knee have limited him to 13 games the last three seasons.

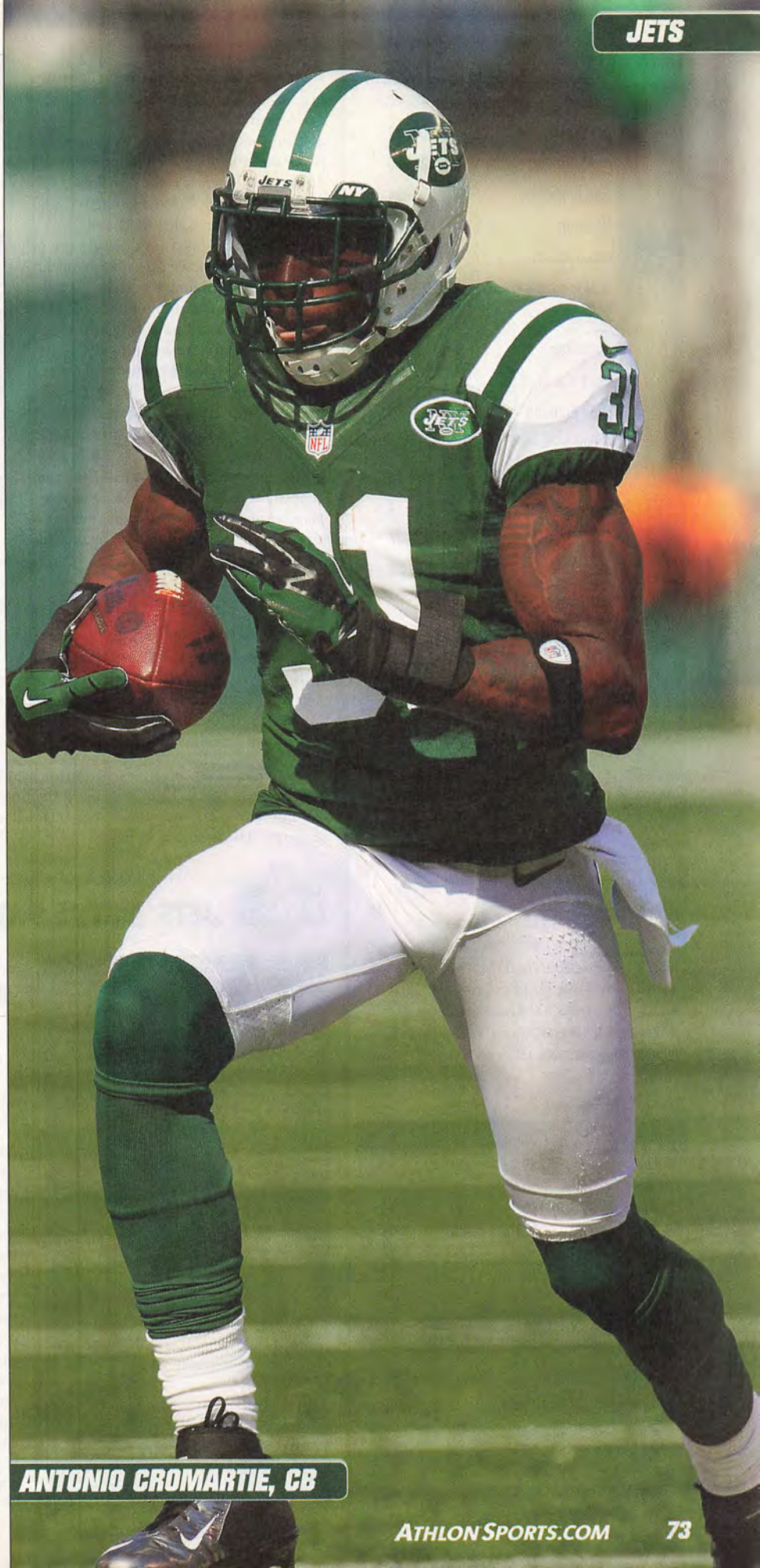
PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
LB	Antwan Barnes	San Diego
G	Willie Colon	Pittsburgh
RB	Mike Goodson	Oakland
RB	Chris Ivory	New Orleans
S	Dawan Landry	Jacksonville
G	Stephen Peterman	Detroit

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
S	Yeremiah Bell	Arizona
DT	Mike DeVito	Kansas City
RB	Shonn Greene	Tennessee
TE	Dustin Keller	Miami
S	LaRon Landry	Indianapolis
G	Brandon Moore	Free Agent
DT	Sione Po'uha	Free Agent
CB	Darrelle Revis	Tampa Bay
G	Matt Slauson	Chicago
LB	Bart Scott	Free Agent
QB	Tim Tebow	Free Agent



ANTONIO CROMARTIE, CB

2012 RESULTS (6–10)

Sept. 9	Buffalo	W	48–28
Sept. 16	at Pittsburgh	L	10–27
Sept. 23	at Miami (ot)	W	23–20
Sept. 30	San Francisco	L	0–34
Oct. 8	Houston	L	17–23
Oct. 14	Indianapolis	W	35–9
Oct. 21	at New England (ot)	L	26–29
Oct. 28	Miami	L	9–30
Nov. 11	at Seattle	L	7–28
Nov. 18	at St. Louis	W	27–13
Nov. 22	New England	L	19–49
Dec. 2	Arizona	W	7–6
Dec. 9	at Jacksonville	W	17–10
Dec. 17	at Tennessee	L	10–14
Dec. 23	San Diego	L	17–27
Dec. 30	at Buffalo	L	9–28

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Mark Sanchez	453	246	2,883	13	18
Greg McElroy	31	19	214	1	1

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Shonn Greene	276	1,063	3.9	8
Bilal Powell	110	437	4.0	4
Joe McKnight	30	179	6.0	0
Tim Tebow	32	102	3.2	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Jeremy Kerley	56	827	14.8	2
Jeff Cumberland	29	359	12.4	3
Dustin Keller	28	317	11.3	2
Chaz Schilens	28	289	10.3	2

KICKING: Nick Folk, 21-27 FGs, 30-30 XPs, 93 points
TACKLES: David Harris, 123; LaRon Landry, 100
SACKS: Quinton Coples, 5.5; Muhammad Wilkerson, 5
INTERCEPTIONS: Antonio Cromartie, 3; LaRon Landry, 2
FORCED FUMBLES: LaRon Landry, 4

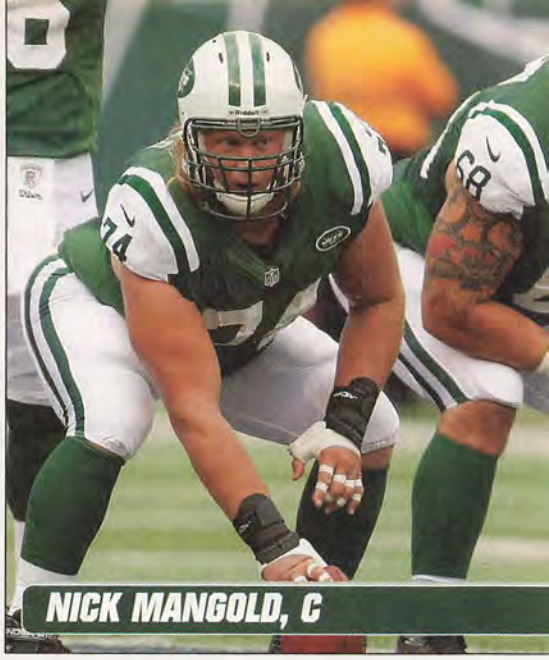
2012 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	299.2	30	15
Rushing	118.5	12	6
Passing	180.7	30	15
Scoring	17.6	28	14
Third Down %	36.9	T20	T10
Punt Returns	10.3	T12	9
Kick Returns	26.2	T6	4

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	323.4	8	5
Rushing	133.6	26	12
Passing	189.8	2	2
Scoring	23.4	20	10
Interceptions	11	T23	T12
Sacks	30.0	T25	13
Turnover Differential	-14	29	15

will return to calling his own defensive plays. And Ryan will need Barnes to boost a pass rush that tied for 25th last year with only 30 sacks. Barnes is also fast enough to cover the tough tight ends found in the AFC East, such as the Patriots' Rob Gronkowski and Aaron Hernandez, and former Jet Dustin Keller in Miami.

Muhammad Wilkerson showed signs of becoming a defensive line stalwart in his second year, compiling five sacks, 70 tackles and three forced fumbles at end. This year, Wilkerson will have to fight through a slew of double-teams unless the Jets somehow find some inexpensive players to replace Sione Po'uha and Mike DeVito. Best case would be for last year's No. 1 draft pick, Quinton Coples, to take over DeVito's spot.


NICK MANGOLD, C

Right cornerback Antonio Cromartie stepped up and had a great year once Revis went down with a torn ACL, and there's no reason to believe he can't do it again. But the middle of the secondary is rife with inexperience in Josh Bush and Antonio Allen. At least free agent acquisition Dawan Landry — brother of departed safety LaRon Landry — will provide coverage skills and durability after recording 100 tackles in 16 starts for Jacksonville last year.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Nick Folk was re-signed for his fourth season in green after going 21-of-27 on field goals. His 93 points tied him for 26th in the league. Robert Malone, the league's 19th-ranked punter, returns after a franchise-record 45.8-yard average on 61 punts (38.5 net).

Joe McKnight likely will handle kickoff returns again after bringing back 39 for a 27.5-yard average (third-best in the league) that included a 100-yard TD against the Texans. The punt return game, handled mostly by Kerley last year, will need more yardage and fewer fair catches.

FINAL ANALYSIS It's always bad medicine for an owner to change his general manager and keep his head coach. Ryan is entering the final season of his contract with a number of troublesome contracts, unfulfilled Super Bowl expectations and an unresolved quarterback quandary. The head coach may be optimistic, but the team's roster indicates otherwise.

NFL DRAFT 2013 JETS IN THE DRAFT

B+

RD PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1. Dee Milliner	**CB**	**6-0**	**201**	**Alabama**
1. Sheldon Richardson	DE	6-3	294	Missouri
2. Geno Smith	QB	6-3	221	West Virginia
3. Brian Winters	G	6-4	320	Kent State
5. Oday Aboushi	T	6-5	308	Virginia
6. William Campbell	G	6-4	311	Michigan
7. Tommy Bohanon	FB	6-1	247	Wake Forest

Any doubts about how the Jets felt about Mark Sanchez were dispelled as soon as they used their second-round pick on Geno Smith. Smith will vie for a starting job — if not this year, then probably next year. Before Smith, the Jets went with defense for their two first-rounders. With the ninth overall pick, they addressed the hole created by the Darrelle Revis trade with Alabama's Dee Milliner, a fast, physical cornerback who loves one-on-one coverage. Four picks later, the Jets took Missouri's Sheldon Richardson, who can play multiple spots on the defensive line. They drafted a potential successor to left guard Matt Slauson with Kent State's Brian Winters, a transplanted left tackle. Offensive linemen Oday Aboushi and William Campbell (switching from defensive line to guard) and fullback Tommy Bohanon add depth and, in Bohanon's case, special teams ability.

Mangold: AP Photo/Scott Boehm; Milliner: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
14 McElroy, Greg	QB	6-2	225	2	Alabama	D7a-11	D7a-NYJ-11
6 Sanchez, Mark	QB	6-2	225	4	USC	D1-09	D1-NYJ-09
5 Simms, Matt	QB	6-3	210	1	Tennessee	FA-12	FA-NYJ-12

RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
43 Griffin, John	RB	5-11	208	1	Massachusetts	FA-12	FA-Cin-11
23 Goodson, Mike	RB	6-0	210	4	Texas A&M	FA-Oak-13	D4b-Car-09
36 Hilliard, Lex	FB	5-11	235	4	Montana	FA-12	D6-Mia-08
33 Ivory, Chris	RB	6-0	222	3	Tiffin	T-NO-13	FA-NO-10
25 McKnight, Joe	RB	5-11	205	3	USC	D4-10	D4-NYJ-10
29 Powell, Bilal	RB	5-10	204	2	Louisville	D4-11	D4-NYJ-11

RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
4 Collins, Joseph	WR	6-3	200	1	Weber State	FA-13	FA-NYJ-12
86 Cumberland, Jeff	TE	6-4	260	3	Illinois	FA-10	FA-10
19 Gates, Clyde	WR	5-11	197	2	Abilene Christian	W-Mia-12	D4-Mia-11
16 Hazelton, Vidal	WR	6-2	209	1	Cincinnati	FA-13	FA-SD-11
84 Hill, Stephen	WR	6-4	215	1	Georgia Tech	D2-12	D2-NYJ-12
10 Holmes, Santonio	WR	5-11	192	7	Ohio State	T-Pit-10	D1-Pit-06
11 Kerley, Jeremy	WR	5-9	188	2	TCU	D5-11	D5-NYJ-11
18 Pollard, Royce	WR	6-1	175	1	Hawaii	FA-12	FA-NYJ-12
87 Reuland, Konrad	TE	6-4	260	1	Stanford	W-SF-12	FA-SF-11
88 Ryan, Titus	WR	6-0	193	1	Concordia	FA-12	FA-KC-07
82 Smith, Hayden	TE	6-6	255	1	Metropolitan State	FA-12	FA-NYJ-12
89 White, Jordan	WR	6-0	215	1	Western Michigan	D7b-12	D7b-NYJ-12

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
66 Colon, Willie	G	6-3	315	7	Hofstra	FA-Pit-13	D4a-Pit-06
62 Ducasse, Vladimir	OL	6-5	325	3	Massachusetts	D2-10	D2-NYJ-10
60 Ferguson, D'Brickashaw	T	6-6	310	7	Virginia	D1a-06	D1a-NYJ-06
77 Howard, Austin	T	6-7	333	3	Northern Iowa	FA-11	FA-Phi-10
76 Landolt, Dennis	T	6-4	306	1	Penn State	FA-12	FA-NYG-10
74 Mangold, Nick	C	6-4	307	7	Ohio State	D1b-06	D1b-NYJ-06
64 Peterman, Stephen	G	6-4	323	8	LSU	FA-Det-13	D3-Dal-04
72 Schlauderaff, Caleb	G	6-4	302	2	Utah	T-GB-11	D6-GB-11

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
98 Coples, Quinton	DE	6-6	290	1	North Carolina	D1-12	D1-NYJ-12
93 Ellis, Kenrick	DT	6-4	346	2	Hampton	D3-11	D3-NYJ-11
92 Finau, Tevita	DL	6-5	288	1	Utah	FA-12	FA-Ari-12
71 Garay, Antonio	DT	6-4	320	6	Boston College	FA-SD-13	D6-Cle-03
94 Harrison, Damon	DL	6-4	350	1	William Penn	FA-12	FA-NYJ-12
96 Wilkerson, Muhammad	DL	6-4	315	2	Temple	D1-11	D1-NYJ-11

LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
95 Barnes, Antwan	LB	6-1	251	6	FIU	FA-SD-13	D4-Bal-07
54 Bellore, Nick	LB	6-1	250	2	Central Michigan	FA-11	FA-NYJ-11
56 Davis, Demario	LB	6-2	239	1	Arkansas State	D3-12	D3-NYJ-12
49 Dickson, JoJo	LB	6-1	245	1	Idaho	FA-12	FA-Jac-11
52 Harris, David	LB	6-2	250	6	Michigan	D2-07	D2-NYJ-07
47 Lansanah, Danny	LB	6-1	255	1	Connecticut	FA-13	FA-GB-08
53 Mauga, Josh	LB	6-1	245	3	Nevada	FA-09	FA-NYJ-09
50 McIntyre, Garrett	LB	6-3	255	2	Fresno State	FA-11	FA-Sea-06
97 Pace, Calvin	LB	6-4	265	10	Wake Forest	FA-Ari-08	D1-Ari-03
55 Sapp, Ricky	LB	6-4	252	2	Clemson	FA-11	D5-Phi-10
51 Smith, Jacquies	LB	6-2	260	1	Missouri	FA-12	FA-Mia-12

DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
27 Adams, Royce	DB	6-0	190	1	Purdue	FA-11	FA-Pit-11
39 Allen, Antonio	S	6-1	210	1	South Carolina	FA-12	D7-NYJ-12
22 Berry, Aaron	CB	5-11	180	3	Pittsburgh	FA-12	FA-Det-10
32 Bush, Josh	S	5-11	205	1	Wake Forest	D6a-12	D6a-NYJ-12
31 Cromartie, Antonio	CB	6-2	210	7	Florida State	T-SD-10	D1-SD-06
34 Fletcher, Donnie	CB	6-1	195	1	Boston College	FA-12	FA-NYJ-12
37 Jarrett, Jaiquawn	S	6-0	196	2	Temple	FA-12	D2-Phi-11
26 Landry, Dawan	S	6-1	212	7	Georgia Tech	FA-Jac-13	D5-Bal-06
21 Lankster, Ellis	CB	5-9	190	3	West Virginia	FA-10	D7-Buf-09
42 Lockett, Bret	S	6-1	220	3	UCLA	FA-13	FA-Cle-09
35 Trufant, Isaiah	CB	5-8	170	2	Eastern Washington	FA-11	FA-NYJ-10
27 Walls, Darrin	CB	6-0	190	2	Notre Dame	FA-12	FA-Atl-11
20 Wilson, Kyle	CB	5-10	190	3	Boise State	D1-10	D1-NYJ-10

SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
8 Dimke, Derek	K	6-0	180	1	Illinois	FA-13	FA-Det-12
2 Folk, Nick	K	6-1	222	6	Arizona	FA-10	D6-Dal-07
3 Malone, Robert	P	6-2	215	2	Fresno State	FA-12	FA-Jac-10
46 Purdum, Tanner	LS	6-3	270	3	Baker	FA-10	FA-KC-09
7 Quigley, Ryan	P	6-3	188	1	Boston College	FA-13	FA-Chi-12
44 Tripucka, Travis	LS	6-1	240	1	Massachusetts	FA-13	FA-StL-12

Athlon Sports

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	10	Santonio Holmes
	84	Stephen Hill
WR	11	Jeremy Kerley
	19	Clyde Gates
LT	60	D'Brickashaw Ferguson
		Oday Aboushi (R)
LG	66	Willie Colon
		Brian Winters (R)
C	74	Nick Mangold
	72	Caleb Schlauderaff
RG	62	Vladimir Ducasse
	64	Stephen Peterman
RT	77	Austin Howard
		Oday Aboushi (R)
TE	86	Jeff Cumberland
	87	Konrad Reuland
QB	6	Mark Sanchez
		Geno Smith (R)
FB	36	Lex Hilliard
		Tommy Bohanon (R)
RB	33	Chris Ivory
	23	Mike Goodson

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	96	Muhammad Wilkerson
	92	Tevita Finau
NT	93	Kenrick Ellis
	71	Antonio Garay
DE	98	Quinton Coples
		Sheldon Richardson (R)
OLB	95	Antwan Barnes
	50	Garrett McIntyre
WLB	56	Demario Davis
	53	Josh Mauga
MLB	52	David Harris
	54	Nick Bellore
OLB	97	Calvin Pace
	55	Ricky Sapp
CB	31	Antonio Cromartie
	21	Ellis Lankster
CB		Dee Milliner (R)
	20	Kyle Wilson
SS	26	Dawan Landry
	39	Antonio Allen
FS	32	Josh Bush
	37	Jaiquawn Jarrett

SPECIALISTS

K	2	Nick Folk
P	3	Robert Malone
KR	25	Joe McKnight
PR	11	Jeremy Kerley

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
Chris Ivory, RB

DEEP-SLEEPER
Jeff Cumberland, TE

OVERVALUED
Antonio Cromartie, CB

TOP ROOKIE
Geno Smith, QB

BOUNCE-BACK
Santonio Holmes, WR

TOP IDP
David Harris, LB

For more Fantasy, visit **AthlonSports.com/fantasy** or follow **@AthlonSports** on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 8	Tampa Bay	1:00	7-9	363.8 (9)	379.9(29)	24.3(13)	24.6(23)
2	Sept. 12	at New England (Thu.)	8:25	12-4	427.9 (1)	373.2(25)	34.8 (1)	20.7 (9)
3	Sept. 22	Buffalo	4:25	6-10	342.9(19)	362.9(22)	21.5(21)	27.2(26)
4	Sept. 29	at Tennessee	4:05	6-10	313.1(26)	374.9(27)	20.6(23)	29.4(32)
5	Oct. 7	at Atlanta (Mon.)	8:40	13-3	369.1 (8)	365.6(24)	26.2 (7)	18.7 (5)
6	Oct. 13	Pittsburgh	1:00	8-8	332.7(21)	275.8 (1)	21.0(22)	19.6 (6)
7	Oct. 20	New England	1:00	12-4	427.9 (1)	373.2(25)	34.8 (1)	20.7 (9)
8	Oct. 27	at Cincinnati	4:05	10-6	332.7(22)	319.7 (6)	24.4(12)	20.0 (8)
9	Nov. 3	New Orleans	1:00	7-9	410.9 (2)	440.1(32)	28.8 (3)	28.4(31)
10		BYE						
11	Nov. 17	at Buffalo	1:00	6-10	342.9(19)	362.9(22)	21.5(21)	27.2(26)
12	Nov. 24	at Baltimore	1:00	10-6	352.5(16)	350.9(17)	24.9(10)	21.5(12)
13	Dec. 1	Miami	1:00	7-9	311.5(27)	356.8(21)	18.0(27)	19.8 (7)
14	Dec. 8	Oakland	1:00	4-12	344.0(18)	354.5(18)	18.1(26)	27.7(28)
15	Dec. 15	at Carolina	4:05	7-9	360.7(12)	333.1(10)	22.3(18)	22.7(18)
16	Dec. 22	Cleveland	1:00	5-11	314.2(25)	363.8(23)	18.9(24)	23.0(19)
17	Dec. 29	at Miami	1:00	7-9	311.5(27)	356.8(21)	18.0(27)	19.8 (7)

BALTIMORE RAVENS

AFC NORTH FORECAST 3

See more cheerleaders by visiting AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER: Steve Bisciotti
PRESIDENT: Dick Cass
GENERAL MANAGER/EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT: Ozzie Newsome
STADIUM: M&T Bank Stadium (71,008)
SURFACE: Momentum Turf
WEBSITE: www.baltimoreravens.com
TICKETS: 410-261-7283
TRAINING CAMP: Ravens Training Facility (Owings Mills, Md.)

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: John Harbaugh
RECORD WITH TEAM: 54-26
CAREER RECORD: 54-26
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Jim Caldwell
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Dean Pees

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

The Ravens' second Vince Lombardi Trophy is prominently displayed in the lobby of their training complex underneath a painting of the late owner Art Modell. But that doesn't mean that the defending Super Bowl champions are overly sentimental when it comes to making tough roster decisions.

The Ravens traded wide receiver Anquan Boldin to the San Francisco 49ers following a contract dispute. They cut strong safety Bernard Pollard and allowed free safety Ed Reed, linebackers Dannell Ellerbe and Paul Kruger and cornerback Cary Williams to leave as free agents.

"It wasn't that one day we woke up and decided that we were going to let a lot of really good football players walk away and play for other teams, but we had a plan in place," says general manager Ozzie Newsome, who's also dealing with replacing the leadership of retired middle linebacker Ray Lewis. "We had to allow the plan to unfold."

The Ravens have significantly overhauled their roster and are confident they're built to compete again after qualifying for the playoffs for five consecutive years under the leadership of coach John Harbaugh. "I think we like our football team," Newsome says. "I'd like for someone to be able to tell me that we aren't good enough to go to the playoffs right now. Can anyone say that? OK then."

OFFENSE Rewarded with a blockbuster $120.6 million contract after being named the Super Bowl MVP, quarterback Joe Flacco is a strong-armed pocket passer who delivered 11 touchdown passes and zero interceptions during the playoffs and has become much more accurate, particularly on the deep ball. He's willing to take calculated risks with his most trusted targets. Flacco is capable of greater production and will be granted significant freedom due to his growing comfort with the offense and a growing rapport with offensive coordinator Jim Caldwell.

Trading Boldin takes away the Ravens' most proven receiver, which means that Torrey Smith is being thrust into a more prominent role. Primarily a deep threat, Smith has incorporated more short and intermediate patterns to add polish to his game. Pro Bowl return man Jacoby Jones could become a regular starting receiver this fall. Possession receiver Tandon Doss, speedster Deonte Thompson and David Reed will compete for playing time. Tight end Dennis Pitta has nearly ascended to a Pro Bowl level and is Flacco's most sure-handed target. Ed Dickson is mainly a blocking tight end, but he has the athleticism to stretch the field.

Running back remains an important position in the offense. Ray Rice is one of the most dynamic all-purpose backs, eluding defenders in the open field. Although he's short in stature, Rice is a physical inside runner and creates mismatches out of the backfield as a receiver. Hard-nosed backup runner Bernard Pierce provides a complementary style to Rice. He prefers to run over linebackers but also has the speed to go the distance. Vonta Leach is a devastating lead blocker who punishes defenders, but his playing time has been reduced because of the fullback only having a part-time status in Caldwell's offense.

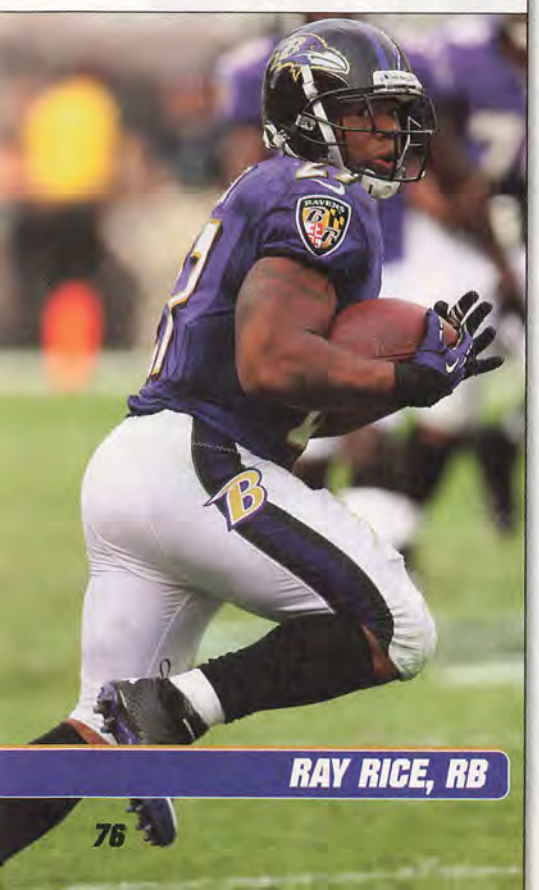
The Ravens re-signed Bryant McKinnie to play left tackle, meaning four of five starters are back after six-time Pro Bowl center Matt Birk retired. McKinnie's weight and conditioning are lingering concerns. Marshal Yanda is a gritty right guard who pulls well. Michael Oher has settled in at right tackle after previous stints on the left side. Kelechi Osemele appears best suited to play left guard next to McKinnie. Gino Gradkowski, the younger brother of NFL quarterback Bruce Gradkowski, is an undersized technician who steps in for Birk at center.

DEFENSE Defensive coordinator Dean Pees faces a daunting task: He must replace a pair of former NFL Defensive Players of the Year in Lewis and Reed.

Athletic rookie inside linebacker Arthur Brown could fill the void created by Lewis' departure. Brown is undersized and fast and has drawn some comparisons to a young Lewis.

Outside linebacker Terrell Suggs, another former NFL Defensive Player of the Year, had an injury-plagued year with a torn Achilles tendon and a torn biceps, hampering his contribution. The Ravens are banking on him returning to form. Inside linebacker Jameel McClain is coming off a spinal cord contusion suffered last December.

Following a bizarre fax debacle, Elvis Dumervil was cut loose by the Denver Broncos and joined the Ravens as a $35 million bookend pass-rusher to work in tandem with Suggs. Haloti Ngata is a dominant interior force when he's healthy, but he has dealt with nagging injuries for the past few seasons. Arthur Jones is coming off a breakthrough season and returns at left



RAY RICE, RB

Flacco, Rice: Athlon Sports; Cheer: Patrick Smith/Getty Images

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Embracing the dirty work Before emerging as a popular draft sleeper from Division II Missouri Southern, Ravens rookie nose guard Brandon Williams spent last summer hauling and cleaning portable toilets. "Sometimes, you got a little poop on you," says Williams, a third-round draft pick who excelled at the Senior Bowl. "Every time I was doing that, I said to myself: 'I gotta work harder. I'm not doing this the rest of my life.'" Rather than complain, Williams transformed the humble job into part of his exercise regimen. He would pretend he was lifting an offensive lineman while hoisting the bulky toilets onto the flatbed of his pickup truck. "I acted like I was playing football," Williams says. "I just made it fun."

Baltimore ink The tattoos that adorn the body of running back Ray Rice aren't intended strictly for decoration. Rice's eight tattoos carry special meaning for the Pro Bowl runner; each one is intended to honor his family. Rice and his tattoos are being featured in the new AOL web series called "My Ink." "I get to show off my tattoos a little bit, and they all have sentimental value to me," Rice says. "I'm not saying a tattoo has to mean something, but I want to live with having my memories embedded on me."

Renaissance man Kicker Justin Tucker has many interests and talents. He sings opera to amuse his teammates. He does a mean impression of actor Christopher Walken. Tucker also raps, speaks Spanish and was an honor roll student at Texas.

Music mogul Offensive tackle Bryant McKinnie has big goals beyond the game of football. He founded a music label called B Major Music Group and has signed several R&B and rap artists. McKinnie is also an avid tennis player who's friends with tennis stars Serena and Venus Williams.

Fighting bullying Linebacker Jameel McClain is speaking out against bullying and cyberbullying as a global ambassador for Stomp Out Bullying, a cause that affected him growing up in Philadelphia. McClain's family was homeless at one point and spent a year at a community shelter. He was often teased by other children because of his clothing since his family was extremely limited financially. "Words last longer than bruises," McClain says. "I can remember fights I went through as a kid where I didn't feel it when I got hit in my stomach. You don't feel that pain or that bruise, but I remember what people said. I remember things meant to bring me down."

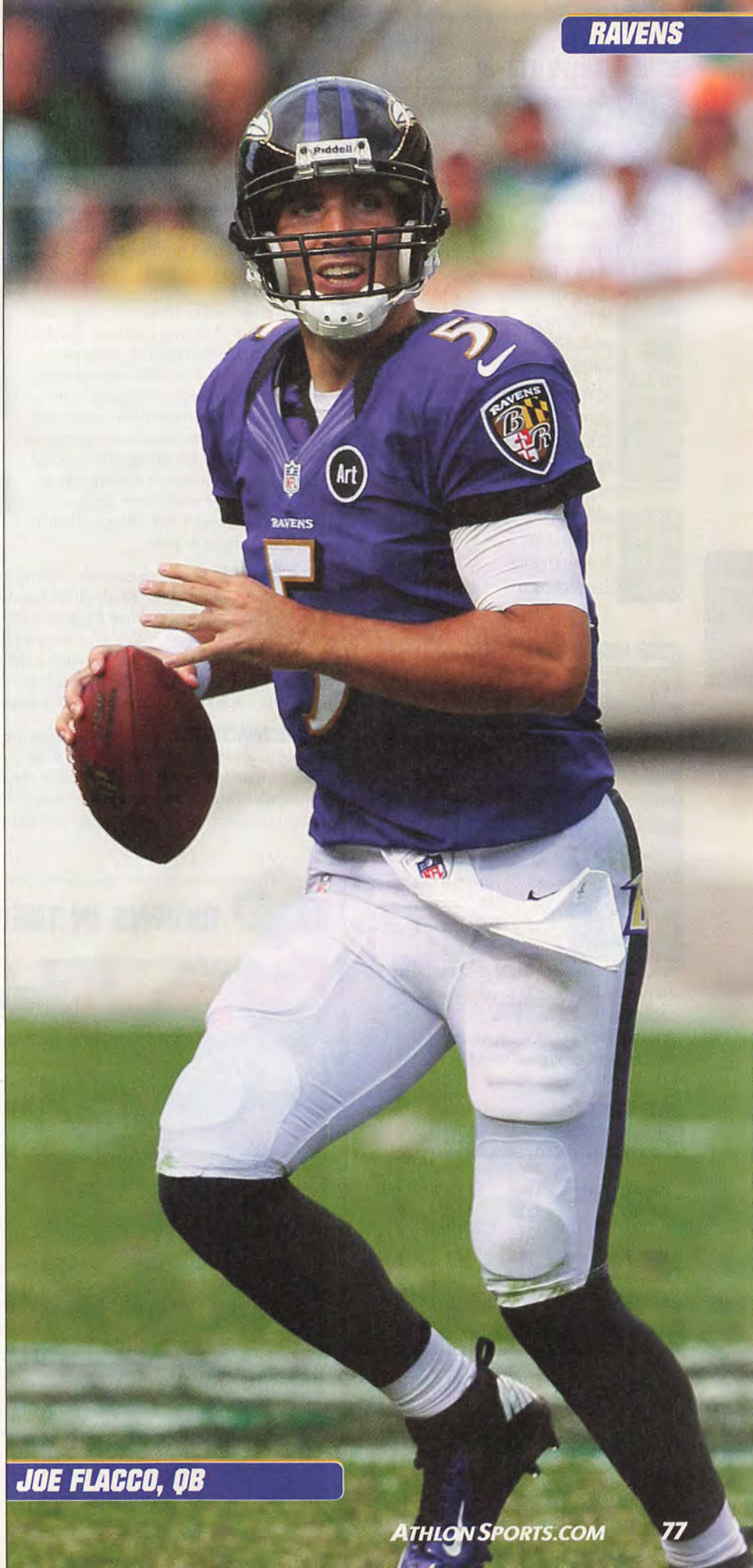
PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
DE	Chris Canty	N.Y. Giants
OLB	Elvis Dumervil	Denver
QB	Caleb Hanie	Denver
FS	Michael Huff	Oakland
DT	Marcus Spears	Dallas

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
LB	Brendon Ayanbadejo	Free Agent
C	Matt Birk	Retired
WR	Anquan Boldin	San Francisco
OLB	Dannell Ellerbe	Miami
OLB	Paul Kruger	Cleveland
ILB	Ray Lewis	Retired
SS	Bernard Pollard	Tennessee
FS	Ed Reed	Houston
CB	Cary Williams	Philadelphia



JOE FLACCO, QB

2012 RESULTS (10–6)

Sept. 10	Cincinnati	W	44–13
Sept. 16	at Philadelphia	L	23–24
Sept. 23	New England	W	31–30
Sept. 27	Cleveland	W	23–16
Oct. 7	at Kansas City	W	9–6
Oct. 14	Dallas	W	31–29
Oct. 21	at Houston	L	13–43
Nov. 4	at Cleveland	W	25–15
Nov. 11	Oakland	W	55–20
Nov. 18	at Pittsburgh	W	13–10
Nov. 25	at San Diego (ot)	W	16–13
Dec. 2	Pittsburgh	L	20–23
Dec. 9	at Washington (ot)	L	28–31
Dec. 16	Denver	L	17–34
Dec. 23	N.Y. Giants	W	33–14
Dec. 30	at Cincinnati	L	17–23
Postseason			
Jan. 6	Indianapolis	W	24–9
Jan. 12	at Denver (ot)	W	38–35
Jan. 20	at New England	W	28–13
Feb. 3	San Francisco	W	34–31

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Joe Flacco	531	317	3,817	22	10
Tyrod Taylor	29	17	179	0	1

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Ray Rice	257	1,143	4.4	9
Bernard Pierce	108	532	4.9	1
Tyrod Taylor	14	73	5.2	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Anquan Boldin	65	921	14.2	4
Dennis Pitta	61	669	11.0	7
Ray Rice	61	478	7.8	1
Torrey Smith	49	855	17.4	8
Jacoby Jones	30	406	13.5	1

KICKING: Justin Tucker, 30-33 FGs, 42-42 XPs, 132 points

TACKLES: Bernard Pollard, 98; Dannell Ellerbe, 92

SACKS: Paul Kruger, 9; Haloti Ngata, 5

INTERCEPTIONS: Ed Reed, 4; Cary Williams, 4

FORCED FUMBLES: 10 players tied with 1

2012 STATS

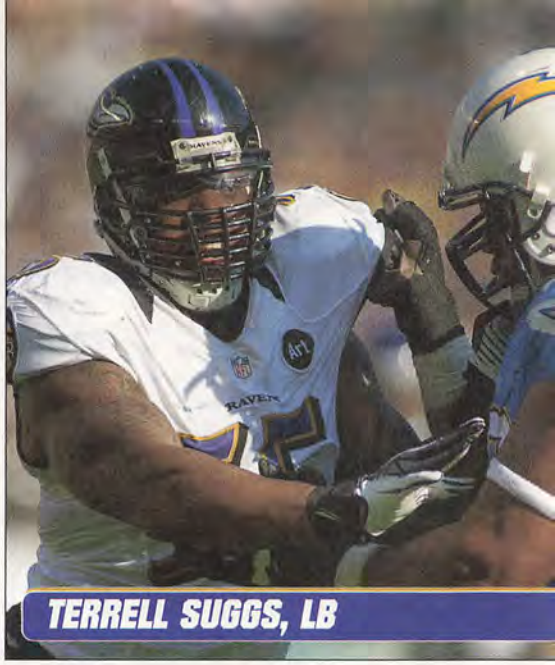
TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	352.5	16	5
Rushing	118.8	11	5
Passing	233.7	15	7
Scoring	24.9	10	4
Third Down %	36.9	T20	T10
Punt Returns	9.4	16	11
Kick Returns	27.3	1	1

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	350.9	17	7
Rushing	122.8	20	10
Passing	228.1	17	8
Scoring	21.5	T12	7
Interceptions	13	19	8
Sacks	37.0	T15	T8
Turnover Differential	+9	T8	3

end, but he could be pushed by veteran defensive lineman Chris Canty. Nose guard Terrence Cody has reached a career crossroads after a bad season and is recuperating from offseason hip surgery. Keep an eye on rookie Brandon Williams, Cody's chief competitor for the job. Marcus Spears figures into the mix as a valuable rotation guy at end and tackle. Outside linebacker Pernell McPhee had offseason groin surgery.

Michael Huff is the new center fielder. He has range and tackling ability but lacks Reed's game-changing instincts. Rookie Matt Elam, the Ravens' first-round pick, is expected to replace Pollard at strong safety.

A huge key to defensive improvement — whether $50 million shutdown cornerback Lardarius Webb can make a sound return from a torn ACL. Jimmy Smith had some encouraging moments in the Super Bowl. He will compete with Corey Graham for the nickel back spot and will get a look as a potential starter as well.



TERRELL SUGGS, LB

SPECIALISTS This is an enviable kicking game. Justin Tucker beat out Billy Cundiff as a rookie and connected on 30-of-33 field goals and made four kicks from 50 yards or longer. Punter Sam Koch has excellent hang time and is also adept at the coffin corner. He is coming off a career-best season with a 47.1 average. In his first season in Baltimore, Jacoby Jones returned three kicks for touchdowns during the regular season and ran a kickoff back for a score in the Super Bowl. The Ravens are looking for new blood in kick coverage after cutting former Pro Bowl special teams ace Brendon Ayanbadejo during the offseason.

FINAL ANALYSIS As long as the offense continues to trend upward with Flacco, the Ravens should be able to score enough points to be competitive in every game. If the new-look defense is better than last year's vulnerable outfit, the Ravens could return to the playoffs for the sixth consecutive year. Defending a title is always a huge challenge, but the Ravens shouldn't be overlooked considering their consistent track record in the Harbaugh era.

RAVENS IN THE DRAFT

A

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Matt Elam	S	5-10	208	Florida
2.	Arthur Brown	LB	6-0	241	Kansas State
3.	Brandon Williams	DT	6-1	335	Missouri Southern
4.	John Simon	DE	6-1	257	Ohio State
4.	Kyle Juszczyk	FB	6-1	248	Harvard
5.	Ricky Wagner	T	6-6	308	Wisconsin
6.	Kapron Lewis-Moore	DE	6-4	298	Notre Dame
6.	Ryan Jensen	T	6-4	306	Col. State-Pueblo
7.	Aaron Mellette	WR	6-2	217	Elon
7.	Marc Anthony	CB	5-11	196	California

Matt Elam's hard-hitting presence should upgrade the secondary with his toughness and range. Arthur Brown has drawn comparisons to a young Ray Lewis because of his speed and relentless style of play. Brandon Williams is an anchor at nose guard. John Simon is a gritty pass-rusher who was the Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year. Kyle Juszczyk is slated for a versatile role as a fullback, tight end and H-back after starring in the Ivy League. He could eventually replace Vonta Leach. Ricky Wagner has sound technique and good arm length to lock out defenders. This shapes up as the equivalent of a medical redshirt for Kapron Lewis-Moore as he rehabs from a torn ACL.

Suggs: Peter Brouillet; Elam: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
5 Flacco, Joe	QB	6-6	245	5	Delaware	D1-08	D1-Bal-08
8 Hanie, Caleb	QB	6-2	222	5	Colorado State	FA-Den-13	FA-Chi-12
2 Taylor, Tyrod	QB	6-1	215	2	Virginia Tech	D6-11	D6-Bal-11
RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
35 Allen, Anthony	RB	6-1	223	2	Georgia Tech	D7-11	D7-Bal-11
28 Berry, Damien	RB	5-10	223	1	Miami	FA-11	FA-Bal-11
44 Leach, Vonta	FB	6-0	260	9	East Carolina	FA-Hou-11	FA-GB-04
30 Pierce, Bernard	RB	6-0	218	1	Temple	D3-12	D3-Bal-12
34 Rainey, Bobby	RB	5-8	212	1	Western Kentucky	FA-12	FA-Bal-12
27 Rice, Ray	RB	5-8	212	5	Rutgers	D2-08	D2-Bal-08
RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
84 Dickson, Ed	TE	6-4	255	3	Oregon	D3-10	D3-Bal-10
17 Doss, Tandon	WR	6-2	207	2	Indiana	D4-11	D4-Bal-11
12 Jones, Jacoby	WR	6-2	220	6	Lane	FA-12	D3-Hou-07
88 Pitta, Dennis	TE	6-4	245	3	BYU	D4-10	D4-Bal-10
16 Reed, David	WR	6-0	190	3	Utah	D5a-10	D5a-Bal-10
48 Silvestro, Alex	TE	6-3	260	1	Rutgers	FA-12	FA-NE-11
82 Smith, Torrey	WR	6-0	205	2	Maryland	D2-11	D2-Bal-11
11 Streeter, Tommy	WR	6-5	220	1	Miami	D6-12	D6-Bal-12
83 Thompson, Deonte	WR	6-0	203	1	Florida	FA-12	FA-Bal-12
15 Williams, LaQuan	WR	6-0	195	2	Maryland	FA-11	FA-Bal-11
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
69 Cornell, Jack	G/T	6-6	320	1	Illinois	FA-12	FA-Bal-12
66 Gradkowski, Gino	G/C	6-3	300	1	Delaware	D4a-12	D4a-Bal-12
70 Harewood, Ramon	G/T	6-6	334	3	Morehouse	D6-10	D6-Bal-10
60 McClain, Antoine	G	6-5	336	1	Clemson	FA-12	FA-Bal-12
78 McKinnie, Bryant	T	6-8	354	11	Miami	FA-11	D1-Min-02
74 Oher, Michael	T	6-4	315	4	Ole Miss	D1-09	D1-Bal-09
72 Osemele, Kelechi	G/T	6-5	335	1	Iowa State	D2b-12	D2b-Bal-12
76 Reid, Jah	G/T	6-7	340	2	UCF	D3-11	D3-Bal-11
62 Shipley, A.Q.	C	6-1	309	1	Penn State	FA-Ind-13	D7-Pit-09
65 Stephens, Reggie	C	6-3	325	1	Iowa State	FA-12	D7-Cin-10
73 Yanda, Marshal	G/T	6-3	315	6	Iowa	D3b-07	D3b-Bal-07
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
99 Canty, Chris	DE	6-7	317	8	Virginia	FA-NYG-13	D4-Dal-05
62 Cody, Terrence	NT	6-4	341	3	Alabama	D2b-10	D2b-Bal-10
95 Hall, Bryan	DT	6-0	291	1	Arkansas State	FA-11	FA-Bal-11
97 Jones, Arthur	DE	6-3	315	3	Syracuse	D5b-10	D5b-Bal-10
92 Ngata, Haloti	DT	6-4	340	7	Oregon	D1-06	D1-Bal-06
96 Spears, Marcus	DT	6-4	315	8	LSU	FA-Dal-13	D1b-Dal-05
93 Tyson, DeAngelo	DE	6-2	310	1	Georgia	D7-12	D7-Bal-12
LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
49 Bryant, D.J.	LB	6-3	248	1	James Madison	FA-12	FA-Hou-12
56 Bynes, Josh	LB	6-1	240	1	Auburn	FA-11	FA-Bal-11
42 Carr, Nigel	LB	6-2	247	1	Alabama State	FA-12	FA-Bal-12
58 Dumervil, Elvis	OLB	5-11	260	7	Louisville	FA-Den-13	D4b-Den-06
54 Hamilton, Adrian	LB	6-3	251	1	Prairie View A&M	FA-12	FA-Dal-12
94 McAdoo, Michael	OLB	6-7	245	2	North Carolina	FA-11	FA-Bal-11
53 McClain, Jameel	ILB	6-1	245	5	Syracuse	FA-08	FA-Bal-08
50 McClellan, Albert	LB	6-2	245	2	Marshall	FA-10	FA-Bal-09
90 McPhee, Pernell	OLB	6-3	280	2	Mississippi State	D5b-11	D5b-Bal-11
55 Suggs, Terrell	OLB	6-3	260	10	Arizona State	D1a-03	D1a-Bal-03
91 Upshaw, Courtney	OLB	6-2	272	1	Alabama	D2a-12	D2a-Bal-12
DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
23 Brown, Chykie	CB	5-11	190	2	Texas	D5a-11	D5a-Bal-11
26 Cook, Emanuel	S	5-10	200	3	South Carolina	FA-11	FA-NYJ-09
24 Graham, Corey	CB	6-0	196	6	New Hampshire	FA-Chi-12	D5b-Chi-07
29 Huff, Michael	S	6-0	211	7	Texas	FA-Oak-13	D1-Oak-06
32 Ihedigbo, James	S	6-1	214	6	Massachusetts	FA-12	FA-NYJ-07
25 Jackson, Asa	CB	5-10	190	1	Cal Poly	D5-12	D5-Bal-12
39 Johnson, Chris	CB	6-1	200	9	Louisville	FA-12	D7-GB-03
41 Levine, Anthony	S	5-11	199	1	Tennessee State	FA-12	FA-Bal-12
22 Smith, Jimmy	CB	6-2	205	2	Colorado	D1-11	D1-Bal-11
33 Thompson, Christian	S	6-0	211	1	South Carolina St.	D4b-12	D4b-Bal-12
21 Webb, Lardarius	CB	5-10	182	4	Nicholls State	D3-09	D3-Bal-09
SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
46 Cox, Morgan	LS	6-4	241	3	Tennessee	FA-10	FA-Bal-10
4 Koch, Sam	P	6-1	218	7	Nebraska	D6a-06	D6a-Bal-06
9 Tucker, Justin	K	6-0	180	1	Texas	FA-12	FA-Bal-12

Peter Brouillet

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	82	Torrey Smith
	17	Tandon Doss
WR	12	Jacoby Jones
	16	David Reed
LT	78	Bryant McKinnie
	71	Ricky Wagner (R)
LG	72	Kelechi Osemele
	76	Jah Reid
C	66	Gino Gradkowski
	77	Ryan Jensen (R)
RG	73	Marshal Yanda
	76	Jah Reid
RT	74	Michael Oher
	70	Ramon Harewood
TE	88	Dennis Pitta
	84	Ed Dickson
QB	5	Joe Flacco
	2	Tyrod Taylor
FB	44	Vonta Leach
	40	Kyle Juszczyk (R)
RB	27	Ray Rice
	30	Bernard Pierce

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	99	Chris Canty
	97	Arthur Jones
NG	62	Terrence Cody
	98	Brandon Williams (R)
DT	92	Haloti Ngata
	96	Marcus Spears
OLB	58	Elvis Dumervil
	91	Courtney Upshaw
ILB	59	Arthur Brown (R)
	56	Josh Bynes
ILB	53	Jameel McClain
	56	Josh Bynes
OLB	55	Terrell Suggs
	90	Pernell McPhee
CB	21	Lardarius Webb
	23	Chykie Brown
CB	24	Corey Graham
	22	Jimmy Smith
FS	29	Michael Huff
	41	Anthony Levine
SS	31	Matt Elam (R)
	32	James Ihedigbo

SPECIALISTS

K	9	Justin Tucker
P	4	Sam Koch

KR	12	Jacoby Jones
PR	12	Jacoby Jones

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
Arthur Brown, LB

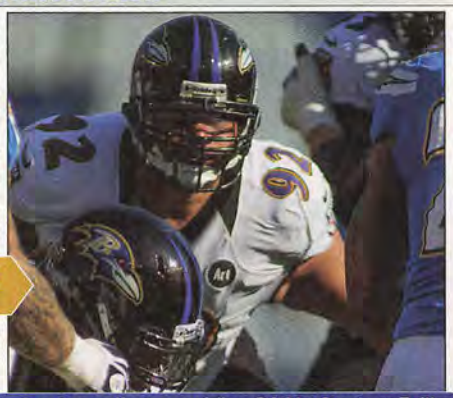
DEEP-SLEEPER
Tandon Doss, WR

OVERVALUED
Jacoby Jones, WR

TOP ROOKIE
Matt Elam, S

BOUNCE-BACK
Haloti Ngata, DT

TOP IDP
Terrell Suggs, LB



For more Fantasy, visit **AthlonSports.com/fantasy** or follow **@AthlonSports** on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 5	at Denver (Thu.)	8:30	13-3	397.9 (4)	290.8 (2)	30.1 (2)	18.1 (4)
2	Sept. 15	Cleveland	1:00	5-11	314.2 (25)	363.8 (23)	18.9 (24)	23.0 (19)
3	Sept. 22	Houston	1:00	12-4	372.1 (7)	323.2 (7)	26.0 (8)	20.7 (9)
4	Sept. 29	at Buffalo	1:00	6-10	342.9 (19)	362.9 (22)	21.5 (21)	27.2 (26)
5	Oct. 6	at Miami	1:00	7-9	311.5 (27)	356.8 (21)	18.0 (27)	19.8 (7)
6	Oct. 13	Green Bay	1:00	11-5	359.4 (13)	336.8 (11)	27.1 (5)	21.0 (11)
7	Oct. 20	at Pittsburgh	4:25	8-8	332.7 (21)	275.8 (1)	21.0 (22)	19.6 (6)
8		BYE						
9	Nov. 3	at Cleveland	4:25	5-11	314.2 (25)	363.8 (23)	18.9 (24)	23.0 (19)
10	Nov. 10	Cincinnati	1:00	10-6	332.7 (22)	319.7 (6)	24.4 (12)	20.0 (8)
11	Nov. 17	at Chicago	1:00	10-6	310.6 (28)	315.6 (5)	23.4 (16)	17.3 (3)
12	Nov. 24	N.Y. Jets	1:00	6-10	299.2 (30)	323.4 (8)	17.6 (28)	23.4 (20)
13	Nov. 28	Pittsburgh (Thu.)	8:30	8-8	332.7 (21)	275.8 (1)	21.0 (22)	19.6 (6)
14	Dec. 8	Minnesota	1:00	10-6	336.6 (20)	350.0 (16)	23.7 (14)	21.8 (14)
15	Dec. 16	at Detroit (Mon.)	8:40	4-12	408.8 (3)	341.1 (13)	23.2 (17)	27.3 (27)
16	Dec. 22	New England	8:30	12-4	427.9 (1)	373.2 (25)	34.8 (1)	20.7 (T9)
17	Dec. 29	at Cincinnati	1:00	10-6	332.7 (22)	319.7 (6)	24.4 (12)	20.0 (8)

CINCINNATI BENGALS

AFC NORTH FORECAST 2

See more cheerleaders by visiting AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

THE ORGANIZATION

PRESIDENT: Mike Brown
SENIOR VP OF PLAYER PERSONNEL: Pete Brown
VP OF PLAYER PERSONNEL: Paul Brown
STADIUM: Paul Brown Stadium (65,535)
SURFACE: FieldTurf
WEBSITE: www.bengals.com
TICKETS: 866-621-8383
TRAINING CAMP: Paul Brown Stadium (Cincinnati, Ohio)

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Marvin Lewis
RECORD WITH TEAM: 79-80-1
CAREER RECORD: 79-80-1
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Jay Gruden
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Mike Zimmer

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

ANDY DALTON, QB

The Bengals think of themselves as Super Bowl contenders. Their roster says they should be in the hunt for the Lombardi Trophy. So does their experience. All that's left for them to do is to prove it on the field following Wild Card playoff losses at Houston the last two seasons.

The entire starting offensive unit returns, but after struggling down the stretch last season, there is much room for improvement. The offense produced just seven touchdowns in the final six games. There are plenty of weapons in the lineup in Andy Dalton's third season, so if the Bengals are to take that next step it is on the shoulders of their red-headed quarterback.

The defense is top-10 quality with the ability to dictate and win games, headed by All-Pro defensive tackle Geno Atkins.

They have no excuses.

OFFENSE The numbers say Dalton improved in 2012, and surely by simple maturity he did, but it's hard to get past those final five regular-season games and the postseason game in Houston and not have questions. Will Dalton be more than what he is now? Have defenses figured out his limitations? Does negating wide receiver A.J. Green render the rest of the offense manageable for the defense?

Dalton and the Bengals weren't as effective passing deep in 2012 compared to 2011, with an accuracy percentage of just 26.0 percent and 633 yards, according to Pro Football Focus. By comparison, they gained 922 yards and were accurate on 43.1 percent of Dalton's deep throws in his rookie season.

Green, who has 162 catches, more than 2,400 yards and 18 touchdowns in two seasons, will win his one-on-one battles and a good percentage of his double teams, but Dalton has to be able to go elsewhere with the ball with confidence. Tight end Jermaine Gresham has three straight 50-plus-reception seasons, but he disappears at times and leaves Bengals fans wanting more too often. He had 10 drops in 99 targets last season.

The selection of tight end Tyler Eifert and running back Giovani Bernard in the first two rounds of the draft were aimed at giving Dalton more options. Expect more two-tight end formations, and the Bengals will even split both Gresham and Eifert out at the same time. Bernard is the speed complement to BenJarvus Green-Ellis' power style.

Three of the five offensive line spots are secure with left tackle Andrew Whitworth, right tackle Andre Smith and right guard Kevin Zeitler. Kyle Cook should win back the center position now that he's healthy after an ankle injury last season. That said, Trevor Robinson gained valuable experience playing in Cook's absence. Left guard will come down to Clint Boling and veteran Travelle Wharton.

DEFENSE Everything starts up front for the Bengals, who have developed one of the more dominant defensive lines in the NFL. Atkins is stout and quick, forcing teams to game plan for him. Ends Michael Johnson and Carlos Dunlap are long and have learned to play hard every down. The rotation goes seven deep, and the pressure from the down linemen means defensive coordinator Mike Zimmer doesn't have to blitz to get to the quarterback.

Signing outside linebacker James Harrison from Pittsburgh should help bring an edge in attitude. The Bengals are betting that Harrison, entering his 10th season, still has plenty left on the field even as he has to make the adjustment from the Steelers' 3-4 zone blitz concepts to Zimmer's 4-3 base. How well Harrison and middle linebacker Rey Maualuga can work in coverage will be key to the defense maintaining its top-10 level of play. The Bengals are leaving Maualuga in the middle and Vontaze Burfict outside. Burfict showed good ability to shed blocks last season, something that has hampered Maualuga in his career.

Cornerbacks Leon Hall, Terence Newman and Adam Jones are versatile enough to play inside or outside, and each of them can play the man-to-man style Zimmer wants out of his corners. The addition of Dre Kirkpatrick, last year's No. 1 pick who had an injury-plagued rookie season, provides more depth. Kirkpatrick is taller (6'2") than the other corners but doesn't yet have their savvy.

Finding a second safety to play alongside Reggie Nelson is paramount. The Bengals had to sign Chris Crocker after the season started last year to fill the void. Rookie third-round pick Shawn Williams is going to get every chance at winning the starting role over Taylor Mays. Nel-

Green, Dalton:Athlon Sports; Cheer: AP Photo/Scott Boehm

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Lot of yards Cincinnati has a new running backs coach for the first time in 29 years after the retirement of Jim Anderson. Hue Jackson takes over for Anderson, who came to Cincinnati in 1984 as part of Sam Wyche's staff. Under Anderson's tutelage, the Bengals had 14 different backs rush for 100 or more yards in a game, led by Corey Dillon's total of 28. The top 15 rushing performances all-time in franchise history came under Anderson's watch, and five different backs made it to the Pro Bowl during his tenure.

Bringing 'em back The Bengals went into the offseason with the potential of having 23 players become unrestricted free agents. They were able to re-sign 14 of them, including using the franchise tag on defensive end Michael Johnson. They re-signed right tackle Andre Smith hours before they were to make their second-round draft pick, which turned out to be running back Giovani Bernard.

Sack masters The defense produced a franchise-record 51 sacks in 2012, including 42 from the defensive line. All-Pro tackle Geno Atkins had 12.5 sacks to lead the team, while Michael Johnson had a career-best 11.5 sacks.

Georgia on my mind Safety Shawn Williams became the eighth player from Georgia drafted by the Bengals in the Marvin Lewis era. This is the fourth year in a row they've taken at least one Bulldog in the draft. Georgia has been good to the Bengals; starters Geno Atkins (fourth round, 2010), A.J. Green (first, 2011) and Clint Boling (fourth, 2011) as well as reserves Robert Geathers (fourth, 2004), Dennis Roland (free agent, 2008) and Orson Charles (fourth, 2012) are currently on the roster.

Gold medalist Margus Hunt was a junior world champion in the discus and shot put in his native Estonia before coming to the United States to attend SMU. When the school disbanded its track and field program, Hunt's coach convinced him to try out for the football team. Four years later, instead of getting ready for the Olympics, Hunt (6'8", 277) became a second-round draft choice of the Bengals.

Jack's buddy The story of 7-year-old Jack Hoffman, a brain cancer patient, racing down the field, football in hand, to score a 69-yard touchdown at the Nebraska Spring Game uplifted millions across the country. Bengals rookie running back Rex Burkhead was there to capture his friend's moment with his video camera. The YouTube video was viewed by nearly eight million people in less than three weeks. Two days after the Bengals selected Burkhead in the sixth round of the draft, he and Hoffman were guests of President Barack Obama at the White House.

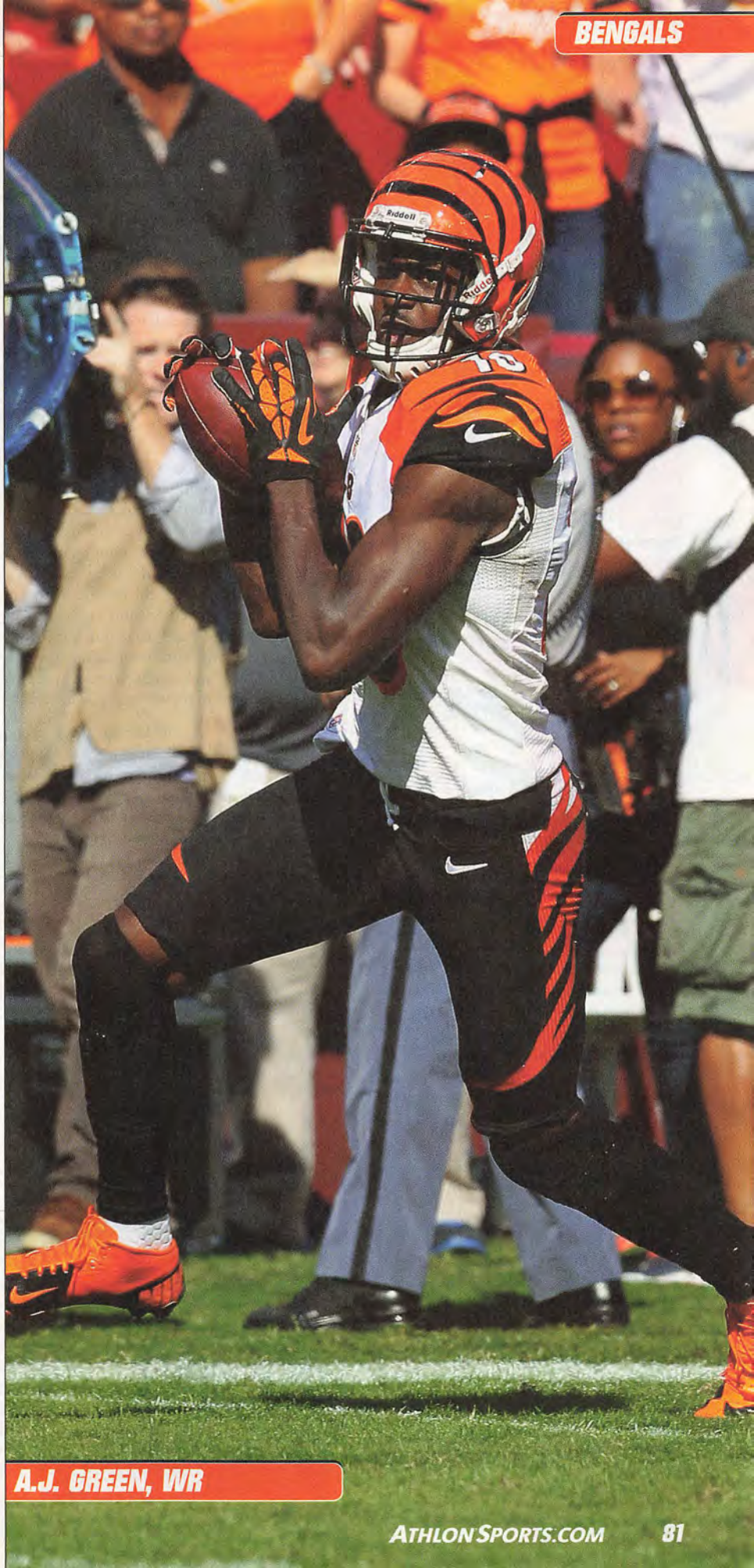
PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
QB	Josh Johnson	Cleveland
LB	James Harrison	Pittsburgh
OL	Mike Pollak	Carolina
QB	John Skelton	Arizona
TE	Alex Smith	Cleveland

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
QB	Bruce Gradkowski	Pittsburgh
LB	Manny Lawson	Buffalo
RB	Brian Leonard	Tampa Bay



A.J. GREEN, WR

2012 RESULTS (10–6)

Sept. 10	at Baltimore	L	13–44
Sept. 16	Cleveland	W	34–27
Sept. 23	at Washington	W	38–31
Sept. 30	at Jacksonville	W	27–10
Oct. 7	Miami	L	13–17
Oct. 14	at Cleveland	L	24–34
Oct. 21	Pittsburgh	L	17–24
Nov. 4	Denver	L	23–31
Nov. 11	N.Y. Giants	W	31–13
Nov. 18	at Kansas City	W	28–6
Nov. 25	Oakland	W	34–10
Dec. 2	at San Diego	W	20–13
Dec. 9	Dallas	L	19–20
Dec. 13	at Philadelphia	W	34–13
Dec. 23	at Pittsburgh	W	13–10
Dec. 30	Baltimore	W	23–17
Postseason			
Jan. 5	at Houston	L	13–19

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Andy Dalton	528	329	3,669	27	16
Bruce Gradkowski	11	5	65	0	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
BenJarvus Green-Ellis	278	1,094	3.9	6
Cedric Peerman	36	258	7.2	1
Andy Dalton	47	120	2.6	4
Brian Leonard	33	106	3.2	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
A.J. Green	97	1,350	13.9	11
Jermaine Gresham	64	737	11.5	5
Andrew Hawkins	51	533	10.5	4
BenJarvus Green-Ellis	22	104	4.7	0

KICKING: Mike Nugent 19-23 FGs, 35-35 XPs, 92 points
TACKLES: Vontaze Burfict 127; Rey Maualuga, 122
SACKS: Geno Atkins, 12.5 ; Michael Johnson, 11.5
INTERCEPTIONS: Chris Crocker, 3; Reggie Nelson, 3
FORCED FUMBLES: Geno Atkins, 4; Carlos Dunlap, 4

2012 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	332.7	22	9
Rushing	109.1	18	9
Passing	223.6	17	8
Scoring	24.4	12	5
Third Down %	34.1	27	13
Punt Returns	10.4	11	8
Kick Returns	22.6	19	10

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	319.7	6	3
Rushing	107.2	12	6
Passing	212.5	7	4
Scoring	20.0	8	4
Interceptions	14	T16	T6
Sacks	51.0	3	2
Turnover Differential	+4	11	4

son will roam the field and take chances sometimes, so whoever wins this spot is going to have to be disciplined.

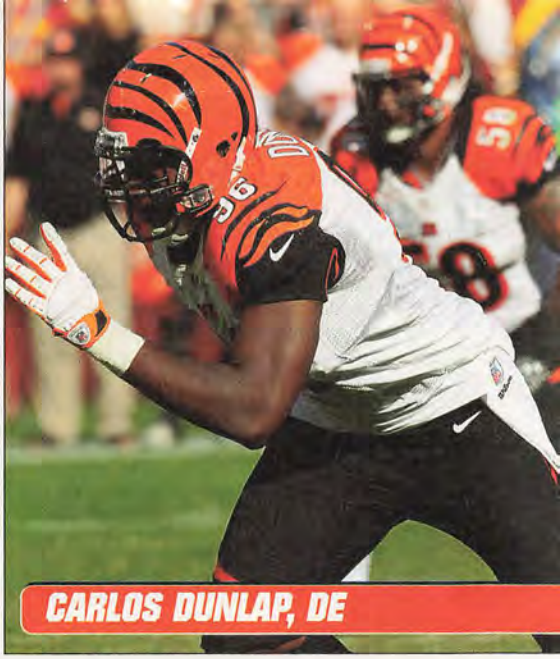
Quality depth at linebacker and safety is a concern. The players the Bengals do have as backups don't have much experience.

SPECIALISTS Mike Nugent missed the final month of the season with a calf strain but was re-signed in the offseason. He's made 83.8 percent (67-of-80) of his field goal attempts in three seasons with the Bengals, including a club record-tying 55-yarder last season. Nugent has been consistent with his kickoffs, both in their depth into the end zone and placement away from the middle of the field, enabling the Bengals to become one of the top coverage units in the NFL.

Punter Kevin Huber was signed to a five-year extension, signifying how much the franchise values him. His career average of 44.0 yards is the best in team history. Huber has become adept at pinning opponents not just inside the 20-yard line but deeper as well; his 11 punts downed inside the 5-yard line were the highest total in the league.

Jones is a threat to go the distance every time he touches the ball in the return game, especially on punts when the action is quicker to happen. He reads blocks well and still has that second gear, which helped make him a first-round pick of Tennessee back in 2005. The trouble is, he can't be a full-time returner because of his importance on defense. Bernard has returned punts in college and is going to get a look on kickoffs as well. Brandon Tate and Bernard Scott have experience in these roles but will be in a fight to make the roster.

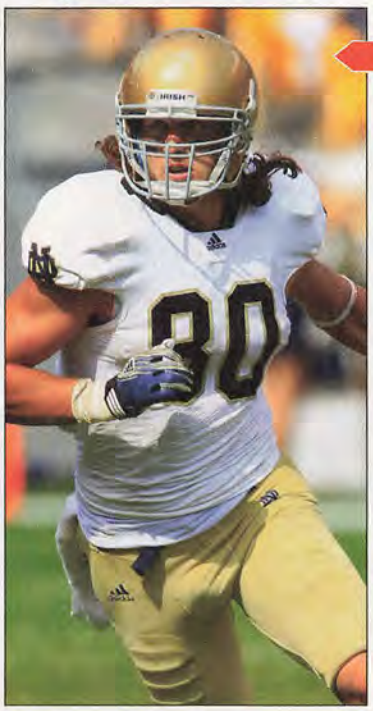
FINAL ANALYSIS The Bengals are good enough defensively and on special teams to win the AFC North and be a threat to reach the Super Bowl. But are they good enough on offense? Can Dalton take a step forward in his third year in the league? Can another playmaker emerge to complement Green, one of the truly elite wide receivers in the game? This offense has done enough to reach the playoffs in each of the past two seasons. But just enough won't be enough this year. Dalton & Co. need to do more.



CARLOS DUNLAP, DE

BENGALS IN THE DRAFT

B



RD PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1. Tyler Eifert	TE	6-6	251	Notre Dame
2. Giovani Bernard	RB	5-8	202	North Carolina
2. Margus Hunt	DE	6-8	277	SMU
3. Shawn Williams	S	6-0	213	Georgia
4. Sean Porter	LB	6-1	229	Texas A&M
5. Tanner Hawkinson	OL	6-5	298	Kansas
6. Rex Burkhead	RB	5-10	214	Nebraska
6. Cobi Hamilton	WR	6-2	212	Arkansas
7. Reid Fragel	T	6-8	308	Ohio State
7. T.J. Johnson	C	6-4	310	South Carolina

Tyler Eifert is a mismatch waiting to happen. He should immediately pay dividends as he gets teamed with Jermaine Gresham and gives Andy Dalton a red zone target. Out of the 10-player class, third-round pick Shawn Williams has the best shot at winning a starting role based solely on the Bengals' need to find a safety to team with Reggie Nelson, but Giovani Bernard has a chance to be the most impactful player out of the group. The Bengals have been looking for someone to complement BenJarvus Green-Ellis, and Bernard has the skill set to be effective as a runner and receiver. He should also get a chance on special teams returning punts and kickoffs.

Dunlap: Athlon Sports; Eifert: Bruce Schwartzman

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
14 Dalton, Andy	QB	6-2	220	2	TCU	D2-11	D2-Cin-11
8 Johnson, Josh	QB	6-3	205	4	San Diego	FA-13	D5-TB-08
5 Robinson, Zac	QB	6-3	215	2	Oklahoma State	FA-11	D7-NE-10
9 Skelton, John	QB	6-6	244	3	Fordham	W-Ari-13	D5-Ari-10

RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
32 Conner, John	FB	5-11	245	3	Kentucky	FA-12	D5-NYJ-10
42 Green-Ellis, BenJarvus	RB	5-11	220	5	Ole Miss	FA-NE-12	FA-NE-08
34 Herron, Daniel	RB	5-10	215	1	Ohio State	D6-12	D6-Cin-12
30 Peerman, Cedric	RB	5-10	211	3	Virginia	W-Det-10	D6-Bal-09
36 Pressley, Chris	FB	5-11	260	4	Wisconsin	FA-10	FA-Cin-09
28 Scott, Bernard	RB	5-10	198	4	Abilene Christian	D6b-09	D6b-Cin-09

RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
80 Charles, Orson	TE	6-3	250	1	Georgia	D4-12	D4-Cin-12
48 Davis, Bryce	TE	6-3	245	1	Central Oklahoma	FA-12	FA-Cin-12
18 Green, A.J.	WR	6-4	207	2	Georgia	D1-11	D1-Cin-11
84 Gresham, Jermaine	TE	6-5	260	3	Oklahoma	D1-10	D1-Cin-10
16 Hawkins, Andrew	WR	5-7	180	2	Toledo	W-StL-11	FA-StL-11
17 Hazelton, Vidal	WR	6-2	209	1	Cincinnati	FA-12	FA-SD-11
82 Jones, Marvin	WR	6-2	195	1	California	D5b-12	D5b-Cin-12
89 Quinn, Richard	TE	6-4	264	3	North Carolina	FA-12	D2-Den-09
12 Sanu, Mohamed	WR	6-2	210	1	Rutgers	D3a-12	D3a-Cin-12
11 Sanzenbacher, Dane	WR	5-11	180	2	Ohio State	W-Chi-12	FA-Chi-11
81 Smith, Alex	TE	6-4	258	8	Stanford	FA-Cle-13	D3-TB-05
19 Tate, Brandon	WR	6-1	200	4	North Carolina	W-NE-11	D3-NE-09
88 Whalen, Ryan	WR	6-1	200	2	Stanford	D6-11	D6-Cin-11

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
65 Boling, Clint	G	6-5	311	2	Georgia	D4-11	D4-Cin-11
73 Collins, Anthony	T	6-5	315	5	Kansas	D4-08	D4-Cin-08
64 Cook, Kyle	C	6-3	315	5	Michigan State	FA-07	FA-Min-07
60 Hudson, Otis	G	6-5	330	2	Eastern Illinois	D5-10	D5-Cin-10
67 Pollak, Mike	G	6-3	300	5	Arizona State	FA-Car-13	D2-Ind-08
66 Robinson, Trevor	C/G	6-5	305	1	Notre Dame	FA-12	FA-Cin-12
74 Roland, Dennis	T/G	6-9	322	5	Georgia	FA-08	FA-Dal-06
71 Smith, Andre	T	6-4	335	4	Alabama	D1-09	D1-Cin-09
70 Wharton, Travelle	G	6-4	320	9	South Carolina	FA-12	D3-Car-04
77 Whitworth, Andrew	T	6-7	330	7	LSU	D2-06	D2-Cin-06
68 Zeitler, Kevin	G	6-4	315	1	Wisconsin	D1b-12	D1b-Cin-12

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
92 Anderson, Jamaal	DE	6-6	280	6	Arkansas	FA-Ind-12	D1-Atl-07
97 Atkins, Geno	DT	6-1	300	3	Georgia	D4a-10	D4a-Cin-10
96 Dunlap, Carlos	DE	6-6	280	3	Florida	D2-10	D2-Cin-10
69 Evans, DeQuin	DE	6-2	265	1	Kentucky	FA-11	FA-Cin-11
91 Geathers, Robert	DE	6-3	280	9	Georgia	D4b-04	D4b-Cin-04
95 Gilberry, Wallace	DE	6-2	275	5	Alabama	FA-12	FA-NYG-08
93 Johnson, Michael	DE	6-7	270	4	Georgia Tech	D3a-09	D3a-Cin-09
94 Peko, Domata	DT	6-3	322	7	Michigan State	D4-06	D4-Cin-06
75 Still, Devon	DT	6-5	305	1	Penn State	D2-12	D2-Cin-12
98 Thompson, Brandon	DT	6-2	320	1	Clemson	D3b-12	D3b-Cin-12

LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
55 Burfict, Vontaze	LB	6-1	245	1	Arizona State	FA-12	FA-Cin-12
92 Harrison, James	LB	6-0	242	9	Kent State	FA-Pit-13	FA-Pit-02
53 Howard, Thomas	LB	6-3	245	7	UTEP	FA-Oak-11	D2-Oak-06
59 Lamur, Emmanuel	LB	6-4	232	1	Kansas State	FA-12	FA-Cin-12
58 Maualuga, Rey	LB	6-2	250	4	USC	D2-09	D2-Cin-09
52 Moch, Dontay	LB	6-2	255	2	Nevada	D3-11	D3-Cin-11
57 Rey, Vincent	LB	6-2	250	2	Duke	FA-10	FA-Cin-10
50 Schaffer, J.K.	LB	6-0	232	1	Cincinnati	FA-12	FA-Jac-12

DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
44 Dye, Tony	S	5-10	200	1	UCLA	FA-12	FA-Cin-12
21 Ghee, Brandon	CB	6-0	193	3	Wake Forest	D3b-10	D3b-Cin-10
29 Hall, Leon	CB	5-11	195	6	Michigan	D1-07	D1-Cin-07
43 Iloka, George	S	6-4	225	1	Boise State	D5c-12	D5c-Cin-12
24 Jones, Adam	CB	5-10	185	6	West Virginia	FA-10	D1-Ten-05
27 Kirkpatrick, Dre	CB	6-2	190	1	Alabama	D1a-12	D1a-Cin-12
37 Lewis-Harris, Chris	CB	5-10	180	1	Chattanooga	FA-12	FA-Cin-12
26 Mays, Taylor	S	6-3	230	3	USC	T-SF-11	D2-SF-10
45 Miles, Jeromy	S	6-2	210	3	Massachusetts	FA-10	FA-Cin-10
20 Nelson, Reggie	S	5-11	210	6	Florida	T-Jac-10	D1-Jac-07
23 Newman, Terence	CB	5-10	192	10	Kansas State	FA-12	D1-Dal-03
38 Prater, Shaun	CB	5-10	190	1	Iowa	D5a-12	D5a-Cin-12
39 Rogers, Taveon	CB	5-11	190	1	New Mexico State	FA-12	FA-Cin-12
31 Sands, Robert	S	6-4	215	2	West Virginia	D5-11	D5-Cin-11

SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
10 Huber, Kevin	P	6-1	212	4	Cincinnati	D5-09	D5-Cin-09
2 Nugent, Mike	K	5-10	190	8	Ohio State	FA-10	D2-NYJ-05

AP Photo/Aaron M. Sprecher

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	18	A.J. Green
	82	Marvin Jones
WR	12	Mohamed Sanu
	16	Andrew Hawkins
LT	77	Andrew Whitworth
	73	Anthony Collins
LG	65	Clint Boling
	70	Travelle Wharton
C	64	Kyle Cook
	66	Trevor Robinson
RG	68	Kevin Zeitler
	67	Mike Pollak
RT	71	Andre Smith
	74	Dennis Roland
TE	84	Jermaine Gresham
	85	Tyler Eifert (R)
QB	14	Andy Dalton
	9	John Skelton
RB	42	BenJarvus Green-Ellis
	25	Giovani Bernard (R)
FB	36	Chris Pressley
	32	John Conner

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	96	Carlos Dunlap
	91	Robert Geathers
DT	94	Domata Peko
	98	Brandon Thompson
DT	97	Geno Atkins
	75	Devon Still
DE	93	Michael Johnson
	95	Wallace Gilberry
SLB	92	James Harrison
	59	Emmanuel Lamur
MLB	58	Rey Maualuga
	57	Vincent Rey
WLB	55	Vontaze Burfict
	56	Sean Porter (R)
CB	29	Leon Hall
	24	Adam Jones
CB	23	Terence Newman
	27	Dre Kirkpatrick
SS	40	Shawn Williams (R)
	26	Taylor Mays
FS	20	Reggie Nelson
	31	Robert Sands

SPECIALISTS

K	2	Mike Nugent
P	10	Kevin Huber
KR	25	Giovani Bernard (R)
PR	24	Adam Jones

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
Mohamed Sanu, WR

DEEP-SLEEPER
Andrew Hawkins, WR

OVERVALUED
BenJarvus Green-Ellis, RB

TOP ROOKIE
Giovani Bernard, RB

BOUNCE-BACK
Dre Kirkpatrick, CB

TOP IDP
Geno Atkins, DT

For more Fantasy, visit **AthlonSports.com/fantasy** or follow **@AthlonSports** on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 8	at Chicago	1:00	10-6	310.6 (28)	315.6 (5)	23.4 (16)	17.3 (3)
2	Sept. 16	Pittsburgh (Mon.)	8:40	8-8	332.7 (21)	275.8 (1)	21.0 (22)	19.6 (6)
3	Sept. 22	Green Bay	1:00	11-5	359.4 (13)	336.8 (11)	27.1 (5)	21.0 (11)
4	Sept. 29	at Cleveland	1:00	5-11	314.2 (25)	363.8 (23)	18.9 (24)	23.0 (19)
5	Oct. 6	New England	1:00	12-4	427.9 (1)	373.2 (25)	34.8 (1)	20.7 (T9)
6	Oct. 13	at Buffalo	1:00	6-10	342.9 (19)	362.9 (22)	21.5 (21)	27.2 (26)
7	Oct. 20	at Detroit	1:00	4-12	408.8 (3)	341.1 (13)	23.2 (17)	27.3 (27)
8	Oct. 27	N.Y. Jets	4:05	6-10	299.2 (30)	323.4 (8)	17.6 (28)	23.4 (20)
9	Oct. 31	at Miami (Thu.)	8:25	7-9	311.5 (27)	356.8 (21)	18.0 (27)	19.8 (7)
10	Nov. 10	at Baltimore	1:00	10-6	352.5 (16)	350.9 (17)	24.9 (10)	21.5 (12)
11	Nov. 17	Cleveland	1:00	5-11	314.2 (25)	363.8 (23)	18.9 (24)	23.0 (19)
12		BYE						
13	Dec. 1	at San Diego	4:25	7-9	297.2 (31)	326.4 (9)	21.9 (20)	21.9 (16)
14	Dec. 8	Indianapolis	1:00	11-5	362.4 (10)	374.2 (26)	22.3 (18)	24.2 (21)
15	Dec. 15	at Pittsburgh	8:30	8-8	332.7 (21)	275.8 (1)	21.0 (22)	19.6 (6)
16	Dec. 22	Minnesota	1:00	10-6	336.6 (20)	350.0 (16)	23.7 (14)	21.8 (14)
17	Dec. 29	Baltimore	1:00	10-6	352.5 (16)	350.9 (17)	24.9 (10)	21.5 (12)

CLEVELAND BROWNS

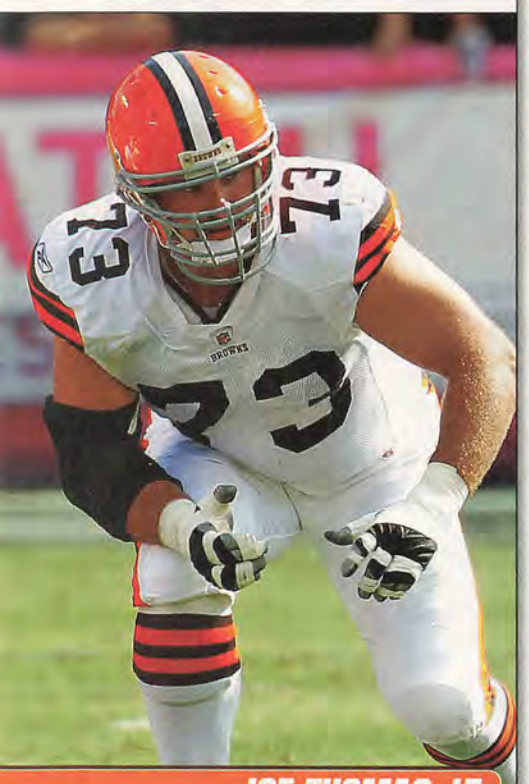
AFC NORTH FORECAST 4

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Rob Chudzinski
RECORD WITH TEAM: 0-0
CAREER RECORD: 0-0
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Norv Turner
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Ray Horton

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2008	4
2009	5
2010	5
2011	4
2012	5



JOE THOMAS, LT

See more cheerleaders by visiting AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER: Jimmy Haslam
CEO: Joe Banner
GENERAL MANAGER: Michael Lombardi
STADIUM: FirstEnergy Stadium (73,200)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.clevelandbrowns.com
TICKETS: 440-824-3434
TRAINING CAMP: Cleveland Browns Training and Administrative Complex (Berea, Ohio)

The Cleveland Browns have not proven themselves adept at doing a whole lot well since the team returned to the field in 1999. The only thing the Browns have done consistently in these last 14 seasons is change. Front office to front office, players to players, coach to coach — the constant change has been the only theme with a team that can't win.

Yes, there may be a correlation.

Because every time the Browns have had an organizational change, the coaches change and the players change and the approach changes. Fans have been treated to a never-ending carousel of people telling them that the right person has been hired and the right player acquired, only to hear the same thing about the next person hired and next player acquired.

The Browns have averaged 5.2 wins per season in the 14 they've been back. They've won 23 games the past five seasons. Rob Chudzinski will be the seventh head coach, Norv Turner the 10th offensive coordinator.

Tumult is the theme, epitomized by the fact that even the ownership changed in the past year, as Randy Lerner sold the team to Jimmy Haslam.

But in typical Browns fashion, Haslam's Knoxville, Tenn., company — Pilot Flying J — became the subject of a fraud investigation that had the FBI and IRS conducting a raid on the business in April.

As they say in Cleveland … only in Cleveland.

OFFENSE New CEO Joe Banner and GM Mike Lombardi did some tinkering with the offense but did not perform an overhaul. Banner's thinking was that the offense has some young talent, and it's worth giving them an opportunity to grow. Translation: Brandon Weeden and company are on a one-year "show me" basis. If Weeden does not succeed in his second season, he won't get another in Cleveland.

The Browns' former brain trust of Mike Holmgren, Tom Heckert and Pat Shurmur saw little to be excited about in the 2013 quarterback class. So they took Weeden in the first round in 2012, no matter that he was 28 (and will be 30 this fall). The latest regime will give Weeden a chance, and they will give him a chance running an offense that is more vertical and down-the-field than Shurmur's West Coast system. Also, the Browns will put Weeden in the shotgun more. He proved in college that he was comfortable working from that spot.

Weeden had moments last season, but they were too few — and he faded as a long and depressing season continued. But he also showed ability that prompted the Browns to draft him. If Weeden falters, however, the Browns will look to the draft to take yet another "franchise" quarterback.

Weeden has a solid offensive line in front of him with left tackle Joe Thomas a consistent standout. Running back Trent Richardson played much of '12 with cracked ribs, so he should be more consistent — and better able to live up to the expectations of a third overall pick. Richardson has to learn when a play is over, though, because he took too many extra shots fighting for yards that weren't there.

The Browns are justifiably excited about their young receivers. Josh Gordon had a solid rookie season after not playing college for two years because of issues with marijuana use. Greg Little struggled early but had a strong second half. The Browns added veterans Davone Bess and David Nelson to round out the receiving crew.

The biggest question on offense — other than relying on young players to grow — is at tight end, a position Chudzinski and Turner like to use a great deal. Jordan Cameron appears to be the choice to start, but he has only 26 catches and eight starts in his two seasons, with most of the starts due to injury to Ben Watson. Cameron has ability, but he also has to show more toughness and the willingness and ability to block.

DEFENSE The Browns spent two years drafting and building for a 4-3 defense. With new management and coaching, Cleveland moves to a 3-4 alignment with Ray Horton trying to implement a Pittsburgh system without Pittsburgh players.The coaching staff shrugs off the change to a "hybrid" 3-4 with different fronts and blitzes, but it's complicated. And it might not be that beneficial. The one element of the team that Heckert built was the defensive front. Now that front has to transition to a two-gap system. And Jabaal Sheard, a pretty good 4-3 end, has to transition to a stand-up linebacker. Free agent signee Paul Kruger, Sheard, first-

Richardson: AP Photo/Greg Trott; Thomas: AP Photo/Kevin Terrell; Fan: Matt Sullivan/Getty Images

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Trading with the enemy The Browns did something in the 2013 draft that they hadn't done in 45 years: They made a trade with the Pittsburgh Steelers, their rival. In sending this year's fourth-round choice to Pittsburgh for next year's third, the Browns made the first trade with the Steelers since Pittsburgh sent quarterback Bill Nelsen to Cleveland in 1968.

A little advice The Miami Heat gave a little bit back to Cleveland. It may not make up for LeBron, but it's a start. After seeing Browns receiver Greg Little get into a Twitter flap with disappointed fans last season, Alonzo Mourning — who works in the Heat front office — reached out through a mutual friend. Mourning asked Little what he'd be willing to sacrifice. Turns out, Little was willing to sacrifice social media and some immaturity. Normally a lighthearted teammate, Little made an impassioned speech to his teammates and turned around his play in the final seven games. Cleveland finished 3–4. Not great, but better than the 2–7 start.

Quarterback pressure In another sign not all is cozy for Brandon Weeden in Cleveland, the Browns signed free agent quarterback Jason Campbell to bolster the position. Like Weeden, Campbell is a former first-round pick, but he's started only seven games the last two seasons with Oakland and Chicago. At the very least, he gives Cleveland a more experienced backup and a veteran presence behind Weeden. After signing Campbell, Cleveland traded Colt McCoy to the 49ers.

Playoff futility The Browns have not been to the playoffs since 2002, a 10-year streak of futility that matches the worst playoff drought in team history. Cleveland is tied for second on the playoff drought list with the Raiders. Buffalo is first; the Bills have missed the playoffs every year dating back to 2000.

Regular season futility Since 1999, the Browns have won 73 games, an average of 5.2 per season. In two of those seasons, the Browns won nine and 10 games. Which means in the other 12 they won 54 games, an average of 4.5 per season. The past five seasons, Cleveland has averaged 4.6 wins.

Graybeard Quarterback Brandon Weeden turned 29 in his rookie season. Because Weeden played pro baseball, he was 28 when he left Oklahoma State. Weeden is older then Alex Smith, Matt Ryan and Joe Flacco, the same age as Aaron Rodgers and one year younger than Ben Roethlisberger. At least Weeden is younger than his backup, Jason Campbell, who is 31.

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
WR	Davone Bess	Miami
DE	Desmond Bryant	Oakland
QB	Jason Campbell	Chicago
K	Shayne Graham	Houston
LB	Quintin Groves	Arizona
LB	Paul Kruger	Baltimore
WR	David Nelson	Buffalo

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
CB	Sheldon Brown	Free Agent
K	Phil Dawson	San Francisco
KR	Josh Cribbs	Arizona
QB	Colt McCoy	San Francisco
TE	Ben Watson	New Orleans

TRENT RICHARDSON, RB

2012 RESULTS (5–11)

Sept. 9	Philadelphia	L	16–17
Sept. 16	at Cincinnati	L	27–34
Sept. 23	Buffalo	L	14–24
Sept. 27	at Baltimore	L	16–23
Oct. 7	at N.Y. Giants	L	27–41
Oct. 14	Cincinnati	W	34–24
Oct. 21	at Indianapolis	L	13–17
Oct. 28	San Diego	W	7–6
Nov. 4	Baltimore	L	15–25
Nov. 18	at Dallas (ot)	L	20–23
Nov. 25	Pittsburgh	W	20–14
Dec. 2	at Oakland	W	20–17
Dec. 9	Kansas City	W	30–7
Dec. 16	Washington	L	21–38
Dec. 23	at Denver	L	12–34
Dec. 30	at Pittsburgh	L	10–24

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Brandon Weeden	517	297	3,385	14	17
Thad Lewis	32	22	204	1	1

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Trent Richardson	267	950	3.6	11
Montario Hardesty	65	271	4.2	1
Brandon Weeden	27	111	4.1	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Greg Little	53	647	12.2	4
Trent Richardson	51	367	7.2	1
Josh Gordon	50	805	16.1	5
Benjamin Watson	49	501	10.2	3
Chris Ogbonnaya	24	187	7.8	0

KICKING: Phil Dawson, 29-31 FGs, 29-29 XPs, 116 points
TACKLES: D'Qwell Jackson, 118; Craig Robertson, 93
SACKS: Jabaal Sheard, 7; Juqua Parker, 6
INTERCEPTIONS: Joe Haden, 3; Usama Young, 3
FORCED FUMBLES: T.J. Ward, 3

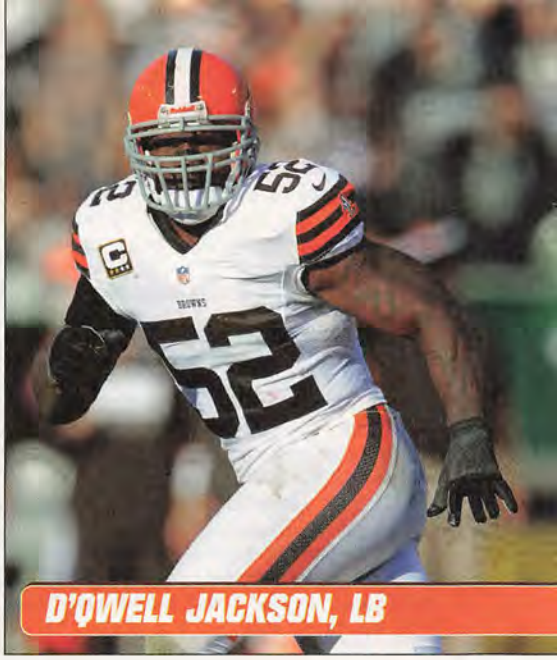
2012 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	314.2	25	11
Rushing	99.6	24	12
Passing	214.7	19	9
Scoring	18.9	24	11
Third Down %	30.7	30	15
Punt Returns	14.8	3	3
Kick Returns	25.4	8	5

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	363.8	23	12
Rushing	118.6	19	9
Passing	245.2	25	13
Scoring	23.0	19	9
Interceptions	17	T11	3
Sacks	38.0	T11	T6
Turnover Differential	+3	T12	5

round draft pick Barkevious Mingo and free agent signee Quentin Groves will be the rush linebackers, as Horton will try to mimic the Steelers' zone-blitz scheme. Horton tried the same approach as coordinator in Arizona a year ago, and the players loved the system. Arizona finished 12th in total defense, 17th in scoring.

Horton's biggest challenge is finding a cornerback to start opposite Joe Haden. Haden has grown into one of the better cover corners in the league, but he needs to stay away from off-field problems. The Browns hope Leon McFadden, the team's third-round draft choice, can step in. If he can't, the Browns would have to rely on Buster Skrine, a young player who struggled in 2012.


D'QWELL JACKSON, LB

SPECIALISTS The one thing the Browns had going for them since 1999 was the consistent excellence of placekicker Phil Dawson. Not anymore.

Dawson, weary of losing and being franchised, signed with the 49ers as a free agent. The Browns never explained why they let their most popular player walk, and the decision looked more odd when they signed 35-year-old Shayne Graham (formerly of the Texans) to replace the 38-year-old Dawson. The Browns also let returner Josh Cribbs leave via free agency. The departure of Cribbs and Dawson took two of the most popular players from the team. Popularity doesn't win games, obviously, but the loss of those two was emblematic of the change in regimes.

FINAL ANALYSIS Expectations for the 2013 Browns were set by their owner in March. At the NFL's spring meetings, Haslam said (candidly) that the Browns would not go 13–3 this season. Give him credit for candor, and for accuracy. The Browns aren't close to a 13–3 team. There are new systems on both sides of the ball and new playbooks. The Browns have talent, but they also have the uncertainty of their owner's legal situation and the uncertainty of how committed the new front office and coaching staff are to these players. As the Browns have often proven, uncertainty rarely wins in the NFL.

BROWNS IN THE DRAFT

RD PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1. Barkevious Mingo	LB	6-4	237	LSU
3. Leon McFadden	CB	5-9	193	San Diego State
6. Jamoris Slaughter	S	6-0	195	Notre Dame
7. Armonty Bryant	DE	6-4	263	E. Central (Okla.)
7. Garrett Gilkey	OL	6-6	318	Chadron State

To call this draft odd would be an understatement. The Browns started by taking a linebacker who weighs 237 pounds, then traded out of the fourth and fifth rounds for future picks. One of the trades benefitted their main rival, the Steelers, as the Browns gave Pittsburgh a pick it used to take a player it wanted. The Browns' final two choices came from East Central University in Oklahoma and Chadron State in Nebraska — doesn't mean they can't play, but it's not the SEC. The Browns counter that they liked Barkevious Mingo and Leon McFadden a great deal. Mingo is extremely athletic, but he wasn't overly productive in his final season at LSU. Playing defensive end, he recorded only 4.5 sacks in 2012. McFadden was a four-year starter at San Diego State. Jamoris Slaughter, the sixth-round pick, missed most of the 2012 season with an Achilles injury.

Jackson: AP Photo/Greg Trott; Mingo: Tom DiPace

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
17 Campbell, Jason	QB	6-5	230	8	Auburn	FA-Chi-13	D1-Was-05
9 Lewis, Thaddeus	QB	6-2	200	2	Duke	W-StL-11	FA-StL-10
3 Weeden, Brandon	QB	6-3	220	1	Oklahoma State	D1b-12	D1b-Cle-12
RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
20 Hardesty, Montario	RB	6-0	225	3	Tennessee	D2b-10	D2b-Cle-10
28 Lewis, Dion	RB	5-8	195	2	Pittsburgh	T-Phi-13	D5a-Phi-11
48 Marecic, Owen	FB	6-0	245	2	Stanford	D4b-11	D4b-Cle-11
25 Ogbonnaya, Chris	RB	6-0	225	3	Texas	FA-11	D7-StL-09
33 Richardson, Trent	RB	5-9	230	1	Alabama	D1a-12	D1a-Cle-12
RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
82 Barnidge, Gary	TE	6-5	250	5	Louisville	FA-Car-13	D5-Car-08
80 Benjamin, Travis	WR	5-10	175	1	Miami	D4a-12	D4a-Cle-12
Bess, Davone	WR	5-10	193	5	Hawaii	T-Mia-13	FA-Mia-08
87 Bryan, George	TE	6-5	265	1	NC State	FA-12	FA-Dal-12
84 Cameron, Jordan	TE	6-5	245	2	USC	D4a-11	D4a-Cle-11
88 Cooper, Josh	WR	5-10	190	1	Oklahoma State	FA-12	FA-Cle-12
81 Davis, Kellen	TE	6-7	267	5	Michigan State	FA-Chi-13	D5b-Chi-08
13 Gordon, Josh	WR	6-3	225	1	Baylor	SD2-12	SD2-Cle-12
15 Little, Greg	WR	6-2	220	2	North Carolina	D2b-11	D2b-Cle-11
11 Nelson, David	WR	6-5	214	3	Florida	FA-Buf-13	FA-Buf-10
10 Norwood, Jordan	WR	5-11	180	2	Penn State	FA-10	FA-Cle-09
47 Smelley, Brad	TE	6-2	235	1	Alabama	D7b-12	D7b-Cle-12
17 Windsor, Rod	WR	6-1	215	1	Western New Mexico	FA-12	FA-Cle-10
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
75 Cousins, Oniel	OL	6-4	315	5	UTEP	W-Bal-11	D3-Bal-08
77 Greco, John	OL	6-4	315	5	Toledo	T-StL-11	D3-StL-08
66 Lauvao, Shawn	OL	6-3	315	3	Arizona State	D3b-10	D3b-Cle-10
55 Mack, Alex	OL	6-4	311	4	California	D1-09	D1-Cle-09
60 Miller, Ryan	OL	6-7	320	1	Colorado	D5-12	D5-Cle-12
62 Pinkston, Jason	OL	6-4	305	2	Pittsburgh	D5b-11	D5b-Cle-11
72 Schwartz, Mitchell	OL	6-5	320	1	California	D2-12	D2-Cle-12
74 Shaw, Jarrod	OL	6-3	316	1	Tennessee	FA-11	FA-Cle-11
73 Thomas, Joe	OL	6-6	312	6	Wisconsin	D1a-07	D1a-Cle-07
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
65 Adams, Kendrick	DL	6-5	250	1	LSU	FA-12	FA-Jac-12
92 Bryant, Desmond	DL	6-6	311	4	Harvard	FA-Oak-13	FA-Oak-09
91 Davis, Hall	DL	6-4	270	1	UL Lafayette	FA-12	D5-StL-10
93 Hughes, John	DL	6-2	320	1	Cincinnati	D3-12	D3-Cle-12
67 Kitchen, Ishmaa'ily	DL	6-1	330	1	Kent State	W-Bal-12	FA-Bal-12
71 Rubin, Ahtyba	DL	6-2	330	5	Iowa State	D6a-08	D6a-Cle-08
70 Sanford, Brian	DL	6-2	280	2	Temple	FA-10	FA-Cle-10
98 Taylor, Phil	DL	6-3	335	2	Baylor	D1-11	D1-Cle-11
90 Winn, Billy	DL	6-4	295	1	Boise State	D6b-12	D6b-Cle-12
LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
94 Carder, Tank	LB	6-2	235	1	TCU	W-Buf-12	D5-Buf-12
58 Fort, L.J.	LB	6-0	230	1	Northern Iowa	FA-12	FA-Cle-12
54 Groves, Quentin	LB	6-3	265	5	Auburn	FA-Ari-13	D2-Jac-08
52 Jackson, D'Qwell	LB	6-0	240	7	Maryland	D2-06	D2-Cle-06
50 Johnson, James-Michael	LB	6-1	240	1	UNLV	D4b-12	D4b-Cle-12
99 Kruger, Paul	LB	6-4	270	4	Utah	FA-Bal-13	D2-Bal-09
54 Moten, Adrian	LB	6-2	230	2	Maryland	FA-12	FA-Ind-11
59 Rau, Ryan	LB	6-1	230	1	Portland State	W-Phi-13	FA-Phi-12
53 Robertson, Craig	LB	6-1	229	1	North Texas	FA-11	FA-Cle-11
97 Sheard, Jabaal	LB	6-2	255	2	Pittsburgh	D2a-11	D2a-Cle-11
DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
37 Bademosi, Johnson	DB	6-0	200	1	Stanford	FA-12	FA-Cle-12
34 Barnes, Kevin	CB	6-1	190	4	Maryland	FA-13	D3-Was-09
39 Gipson, Tashaun	DB	5-11	205	1	Wyoming	FA-12	FA-Cle-12
23 Haden, Joe	DB	5-11	190	3	Florida	D1-10	D1-Cle-10
27 Hagg, Eric	DB	6-1	205	2	Nebraska	D7-11	D7-Cle-11
31 Miller, Prince	DB	5-9	210	2	Georgia	FA-12	FA-Bal-10
21 Owens, Christopher	CB	5-9	180	4	San Jose State	FA-Atl-13	D3-Atl-09
22 Skrine, Buster	DB	5-9	185	2	Chattanooga	D5a-11	D5a-Cle-11
26 Wade, Trevin	DB	5-10	190	1	Arizona	D7a-12	D7a-Cle-12
43 Ward, T.J.	DB	5-10	200	3	Oregon	D2a-10	D2a-Cle-10
SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
8 Bogotay, Brandon	K	6-3	207	1	Georgia	FA-13	FA-Cle-13
7 Graham, Shayne	K	6-0	210	11	Virginia Tech	FA-Hou-13	FA-NO-00
5 Lanning, Spencer	P	5-11	200	1	South Carolina	FA-13	FA-Chi-11
6 Schum, Jake	P	5-10	210	1	Buffalo	FA-13	FA-Cle-13
57 Yount, Christian	LS	6-1	256	2	UCLA	FA-11	FA-TB-11

AP Photo/Greg Trott

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	15	Greg Little
		Davone Bess
WR	13	Josh Gordon
	11	David Nelson
LT	73	Joe Thomas
	75	Oniel Cousins
LG	77	John Greco
	62	Jason Pinkston
C	55	Alex Mack
	77	John Greco
RG	66	Shawn Lauvao
	60	Ryan Miller
RT	72	Mitchell Schwartz
	75	Oniel Cousins
TE	84	Jordan Cameron
	82	Gary Barnidge
QB	3	Brandon Weeden
	17	Jason Campbell
RB	33	Trent Richardson
	20	Montario Hardesty
FB	48	Owen Marecic
	47	Brad Smelley

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	92	Desmond Bryant
	90	Billy Winn
NT	98	Phil Taylor
	67	Ishmaa'ily Kitchen
DE	71	Ahtyba Rubin
	90	Billy Winn
OLB	97	Jabaal Sheard
	51	Barkevious Mingo (R)
ILB	52	D'Qwell Jackson
	58	L.J. Fort
ILB	53	Craig Robertson
	50	James-Michael Johnson
OLB	99	Paul Kruger
	54	Quentin Groves
CB	23	Joe Haden
	21	Chris Owens
CB		Leon McFadden (R)
	22	Buster Skrine
SS	43	T.J. Ward
	37	Johnson Bademosi
FS	39	Tashaun Gipson
	27	Eric Hagg

SPECIALISTS

K	7	Shayne Graham
P	5	Spencer Lanning
KR	80	Travis Benjamin
PR	80	Travis Benjamin

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
Jordan Cameron, TE

DEEP-SLEEPER
Dion Lewis, RB

OVERVALUED
Paul Kruger, LB

TOP ROOKIE
Barkevious Mingo, LB

BOUNCE-BACK
T.J. Ward, S

TOP IDP
D'Qwell Jackson, LB

For more Fantasy, visit **AthlonSports.com/fantasy** or follow **@AthlonSports** on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 8	Miami	1:00	7-9	311.5 (27)	356.8 (21)	18.0 (27)	19.8 (7)
2	Sept. 15	at Baltimore	1:00	10-6	352.5 (16)	350.9 (17)	24.9 (10)	21.5 (12)
3	Sept. 22	at Minnesota	1:00	10-6	336.6 (20)	350.0 (16)	23.7 (14)	21.8 (14)
4	Sept. 29	Cincinnati	1:00	10-6	332.7 (22)	319.7 (6)	24.4 (12)	20.0 (8)
5	Oct. 3	Buffalo (Thu.)	8:25	6-10	342.9 (19)	362.9 (22)	21.5 (21)	27.2 (26)
6	Oct. 13	Detroit	1:00	4-12	408.8 (3)	341.1 (13)	23.2 (17)	27.3 (27)
7	Oct. 20	at Green Bay	4:25	11-5	359.4 (13)	336.8 (11)	27.1 (5)	21.0 (11)
8	Oct. 27	at Kansas City	1:00	2-14	319.2 (24)	356.5 (20)	13.2 (32)	26.6 (25)
9	Nov. 3	Baltimore	4:25	10-6	352.5 (16)	350.9 (17)	24.9 (10)	21.5 (12)
10		BYE						
11	Nov. 17	at Cincinnati	1:00	10-6	332.7 (22)	319.7 (6)	24.4 (12)	20.0 (8)
12	Nov. 24	Pittsburgh	1:00	8-8	332.7 (21)	275.8 (1)	21.0 (22)	19.6 (6)
13	Dec. 1	Jacksonville	1:00	2-14	299.2 (29)	380.5 (30)	15.9 (30)	27.8 (29)
14	Dec. 8	at New England	1:00	12-4	427.9 (1)	373.2 (25)	34.8 (1)	20.7 (9)
15	Dec. 15	Chicago	1:00	10-6	310.6 (28)	315.6 (5)	23.4 (16)	17.3 (3)
16	Dec. 22	at N.Y. Jets	1:00	6-10	299.2 (30)	323.4 (8)	17.6 (28)	23.4 (20)
17	Dec. 29	at Pittsburgh	1:00	8-8	332.7 (21)	275.8 (1)	21.0 (22)	19.6 (6)

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

AFC NORTH FORECAST **1**

See more cheerleaders by visiting AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

THE ORGANIZATION

CHAIRMAN: Dan Rooney
PRESIDENT: Art Rooney II
VICE PRESIDENT: Art Rooney, Jr.
GENERAL MANAGER: Kevin Colbert
STADIUM: Heinz Field (65,050)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.steelers.com
TICKETS: 412-323-1200
TRAINING CAMP: Saint Vincent College (Latrobe, Pa.)

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Mike Tomlin
RECORD WITH TEAM: 63-33
CAREER RECORD: 63-33
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Todd Haley
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Dick LeBeau

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2008	12
2009	9
2010	12
2011	12
2012	8

Playoffs · AFC Champion · Super Bowl Champion

General manager Kevin Colbert chafes at the notion that the Steelers are rebuilding after the kind of roster turnover that qualified as astounding given his organization's reputation as one of the most stable in the NFL. Coach Mike Tomlin insists that the Steelers are simply in transition after an 8–8 season. Whether transition is merely a euphemism for rebuilding will be determined by how the Steelers respond after missing the playoffs for just the second time since Tomlin took over in 2007.

For the second consecutive year, the Steelers cut ties with a handful of key veterans, and quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, strong safety Troy Polamalu, cornerback Ike Taylor and tight end Heath Miller are the remaining core players from the team that played in three Super Bowls and won two of them during a six-year period. Miller, the Steelers' 2012 MVP, likely won't be 100 percent at the start of the season after sustaining a torn ACL at the end of last season. That puts even more pressure on Roethlisberger, Polamalu and Taylor to stay healthy if the Steelers are to challenge Baltimore and Cincinnati for supremacy in the AFC North.

OFFENSE The fragile union between Roethlisberger and offensive coordinator Todd Haley enters its second season. For all of the psychoanalysis that is devoted to the relationship, Roethlisberger was having a Pro Bowl-caliber season before sustaining a rib injury in November. He struggled after returning to the starting lineup, and it may not get any easier this season, even if Roethlisberger stays healthy. The Steelers lost one of the NFL's top deep threats when wide receiver Mike Wallace bolted to Miami in free agency. Miller, who has long been Roethlisberger's security blanket and one of the top all-around tight ends in the league, may take some time to get back to full speed. The Steelers will depend on second-year man David Paulson and another tight end coming off a torn ACL, David Johnson, until Miller returns.

Wallace's departure means the Steelers will rely heavily on Antonio Brown in the passing game. Brown, the Steelers' MVP in 2011, took a step backward last season. The fourth-year man won't have the luxury of having a burner opposite him on the field. Emmanuel Sanders replaces Wallace, and the fourth-year veteran has shown flashes but has also been injury-prone and inconsistent. Jerricho Cotchery and Plaxico Burress are seasoned veterans, but each is past his prime. The passing game will be helped immensely if third-round draft pick Markus Wheaton makes an impact as a rookie.

There are also questions about the skill players who will line up behind Roethlisberger. Isaac Redman and Jonathan Dwyer are not every-down backs, and the Steelers drafted Michigan State's Le'Veon Bell with the hope that he will develop into their feature back — and sooner rather than later. The team also signed LaRod Stephens-Howling to provide depth and give the Steelers a receiving threat out of the backfield.

The Steelers did not draft an offensive lineman in 2013 because they invested so heavily in that area in previous drafts. Four of the projected five starters are either first- or second-round picks. All-Pro center Maurkice Pouncey anchors the line, with the Steelers also expecting big things out of right guard David DeCastro. Tackles Marcus Gilbert and Mike Adams both have to stay healthy and become more consistent. The Steelers are dangerously thin up front.

DEFENSE The Steelers finished first in the NFL in total defense last season, but that proved to be fool's gold. They did not put enough pressure on opposing quarterbacks and did not force enough turnovers. Gone are five-time Pro Bowl nose tackle Casey Hampton and outside linebacker James Harrison, who was cut after the two sides couldn't agree on the amount of a pay cut for the former NFL Defensive Player of the Year. The Steelers also lost starting cornerback Keenan Lewis to the New Orleans Saints in free agency.

The Steelers are high on former undrafted free agent Steve McLendon, who replaces Hampton and can also play defensive end. They must get more out of former first-round picks Ziggy Hood and Cameron Heyward at defensive end. Hood is going into his third season as a starter but has been, in Tomlin parlance, just another guy. Heyward has shown very little in two seasons, and that is a concern since Brett Keisel, 34, whom he backs up, isn't getting any younger.

Lawrence Timmons, who should have made the Pro Bowl last season, and veteran Larry Foote return at inside linebacker. One of the biggest questions on the team is whether the outside linebackers will provide the necessary pass rush, which is critical to the defense's success. Former Pro Bowler LaMarr Woodley had only four sacks last season. Jason Worilds gets the

LAWRENCE TIMMONS, LB

Roethlisberger: AP Photo/Greg Trott; Timmons, Fan: AP Photo/Paul Spinelli

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Woodley on the spot An injury-plagued campaign that limited his time — and effectiveness — on the field isn't the only thing that should motivate LaMarr Woodley going into 2013. A teammate anonymously ripped Woodley's work ethic to a Pittsburgh sports columnist during the offseason, and linebackers coach Keith Butler said that Woodley needed to keep himself in better shape to avoid hamstring injuries. The 6'2" Woodley is listed at 265 pounds, but he plays in the 280-pound range. He has not been the same player since hurting his hamstring in an October 2011 game against New England.

Let's get physical Commissioner Roger Goodell's emphasis on player safety has largely been met with disdain from Steelers fans who enjoy the hard-nosed play of their team. Coach Mike Tomlin has been added to the NFL's competition committee, but Steelers fans shouldn't see that as infiltrating enemy camp. Tomlin largely supports player-safety initiatives, and he says a team can still play within the rules and be physical. "I think it's just a mentality more than anything else," the seventh-year coach says. "We understand that there is going to be confrontation in the game of professional football, and we are not running away from it."

Happy homecoming LaRod Stephens-Howling treated himself to a 26th birthday present on April 26 when the former Arizona running back signed a one-year contract with the Steelers. Stephens-Howling grew up in Johnstown, which is about 70 miles east of Pittsburgh, and he shared a practice facility with Steelers players when he was at Pitt from 2006-09. The scatback is likely to carve out a role as a return specialist and third down back. Stephens-Howling had a 73-yard catch-and-run touchdown against the Steelers in 2011.

No heir apparent Landry Jones became the first quarterback the Steelers had drafted in the first four rounds since they took Ben Roethlisberger 11th overall in 2004. Not that the Steelers necessarily see Jones, Oklahoma's all-time leading passer, as Roethlisberger's heir apparent. "When we came into the offseason we wanted to get younger at the position," general manager Kevin Colbert says, while also acknowledging that Jones may never play on a regular basis for the Steelers with Roethlisberger only 31 years old.

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
CB	William Gay	Arizona
QB	Bruce Gradkowski	Cincinnati
TE	Matt Spaeth	Chicago
RB	LaRod Stephens-Howling	Arizona

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
S	Will Allen	Dallas
G	Willie Colon	N.Y. Jets
LB	James Harrison	Cincinnati
CB	Keenan Lewis	New Orleans
NT	Casey Hampton	Free agent
C	Doug Legursky	Free agent
RB	Rashard Mendenhall	Arizona
S	Ryan Mundy	N.Y. Giants
TE	Leonard Pope	Free agent
WR	Mike Wallace	Miami

BEN ROETHLISBERGER, QB

2012 RESULTS (8–8)

Sept. 9	at Denver	L	19–31
Sept. 16	N.Y. Jets	W	27–10
Sept. 23	at Oakland	L	31–34
Oct. 7	Philadelphia	W	16–14
Oct. 11	at Tennessee	L	23–26
Oct. 21	at Cincinnati	W	24–17
Oct. 28	Washington	W	27–12
Nov. 4	at N.Y. Giants	W	24–20
Nov. 12	Kansas City (ot)	W	16–13
Nov. 18	Baltimore	L	10–13
Nov. 25	at Cleveland	L	14–20
Dec. 2	at Baltimore	W	23–20
Dec. 9	San Diego	L	24–34
Dec. 16	at Dallas (ot)	L	24–27
Dec. 23	Cincinnati	L	10–13
Dec. 30	Cleveland	W	24–10

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Ben Roethlisberger	449	284	3,265	26	8
Charlie Batch	70	45	475	1	4

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Jonathan Dwyer	156	623	4.0	2
Isaac Redman	110	410	3.7	2
Rashard Mendenhall	51	182	3.6	0
Chris Rainey	26	102	3.9	2

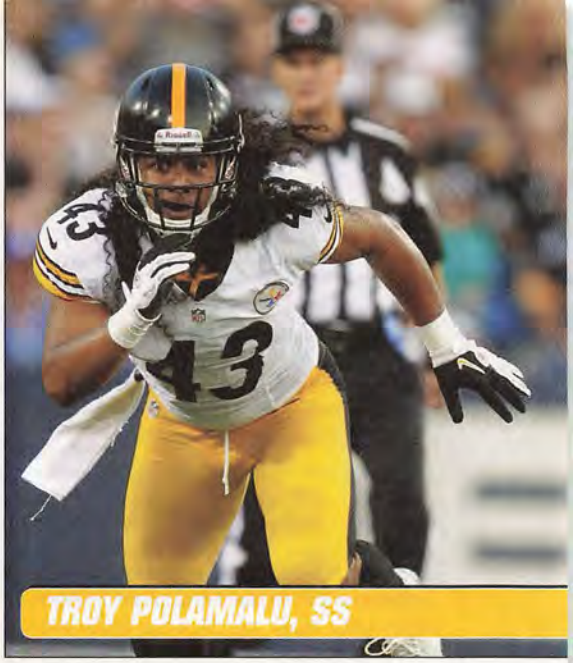
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Heath Miller	71	816	11.5	8
Mike Wallace	64	836	13.1	8
Antonio Brown	66	787	11.9	5
Emmanuel Sanders	44	626	14.2	1

KICKING: Shaun Suisham, 28-31 FGs, 34-34 XPs, 118 points
TACKLES: Larry Foote, 113; Lawrence Timmons, 106
SACKS: James Harrison, 6; Lawrence Timmons, 6
INTERCEPTIONS: Lawrence Timmons, 3; Ryan Clark, 2
FORCED FUMBLES: Cortez Allen 3

2012 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	332.8	21	8
Rushing	96.1	26	13
Passing	236.7	14	6
Scoring	21.0	22	9
Third Down %	42.0	10	4
Punt Returns	7.3	T28	T14
Kick Returns	25.3	9	6

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	275.8	1	1
Rushing	90.6	2	1
Passing	185.2	1	1
Scoring	19.6	6	2
Interceptions	10	T27	T14
Sacks	37.0	T15	T8
Turnover Differential	-10	T24	T11



first crack at replacing Harrison, and the former second-round pick has played well in spots. First-round pick Jarvis Jones should provide help at outside linebacker even if he is only a situational pass-rusher.

The loss of Lewis thrusts Cortez Allen into the starting lineup, and Allen looked like a viable long-term starter after filling in for the injured Taylor last season. Taylor is still one of the better cornerbacks in the NFL, and the Steelers signed William Gay, who spent the 2012 season in Arizona, to play nickel back.

Polamalu is the wild card. The 2010 NFL Defensive Player of the Year gives coordinator Dick LeBeau a piece to move all over the field, and Polamalu is a game-changer when he is healthy. The problem is that Polamalu has missed 22 games since 2009, and his age (32) and aggressive style of play don't bode well for getting an entire season out of the seven-time Pro Bowler. Free safety Ryan Clark is 33 but seems to get better with age. Perhaps the biggest issue the Steelers have at the back end of their defense is the lack of proven depth.

SPECIALISTS Shaun Suisham is entrenched as the kicker, and the ninth-year veteran was close to automatic last season. Drew Butler returns as the punter after a decent rookie season. Stephens-Howling has returned three kickoffs for touchdowns during his career, and Brown is a dangerous punt returner. Tomlin would love for a younger player to emerge there so he can minimize Brown's exposure to big hits.

FINAL ANALYSIS A franchise quarterback like Roethlisberger is always going to give his team a chance to contend for the Super Bowl, which is the only goal in Pittsburgh. Roethlisberger must have a capable supporting cast, and it would help if the investment the Steelers have made in the offensive line started paying off. A healthy Polamalu and a return to form by Woodley would make the defense more opportunistic. There are a lot of ifs, however, and if Pittsburgh's marquee players do not lead the way — or are not able to because of injuries — the Steelers are looking at another third-place finish in the AFC North and another long offseason.

NFL DRAFT 2013 STEELERS IN THE DRAFT B

RD PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1. Jarvis Jones	OLB	6-2	265	Georgia
2. Le'Veon Bell	RB	6-1	235	Michigan State
3. Markus Wheaton	WR	5-11	182	Oregon State
4. Shamarko Thomas	S	5-9	217	Syracuse
4. Landry Jones	QB	6-3	221	Oklahoma
5. Terry Hawthorne	CB	6-0	190	Illinois
6. Justin Brown	WR	6-3	209	Oklahoma
6. Vince Williams	LB	6-1	250	Florida State
7. Nicholas Williams	DE	6-4	309	Samford

The Steelers were actually happy that Jarvis Jones posted a poor 40-yard dash time (4.9 seconds) at the NFL Scouting Combine, as that allowed him to fall to them in the first round of the draft. He filled their biggest need, although Le'Veon Bell has the best chance of starting right away. Markus Wheaton has the speed to help make up for the loss of Mike Wallace. Shamarko Thomas packs a wallop, and he should at least contribute on special teams immediately. Landry Jones will learn under Ben Roethlisberger and Bruce Gradkowski, while Terry Hawthorne should benefit from the tutelage of defensive backs coach Carnell Lake. Vince Williams could make the team as a backup, and Justin Brown will get a long look at punt returner. Nicholas Williams is a project.

Polamalu: AP Photo/Scott Boehm; Jones: Tom DiPace

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
5 Gradkowski, Bruce	QB	6-1	220	7	Toledo	FA-Cin-13	D6-TB-06
7 Roethlisberger, Ben	QB	6-5	241	9	Miami (OH)	D1-04	D1-Pit-04
4 Wilson, John Parker	QB	6-2	215	3	Alabama	W-Jac-13	FA-Atl-09

RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
20 Batch, Baron	RB	5-10	210	2	Texas Tech	D7-11	D7-Pit-11
27 Dwyer, Jonathan	RB	5-11	229	3	Georgia Tech	D6a-10	D6a-Pit-10
46 Johnson, Will	FB	6-2	238	1	West Virginia	FA-12	FA-Pit-12
22 Rainey, Chris	RB	5-9	180	1	Florida	D5-12	D5-Pit-12
33 Redman, Isaac	RB	6-0	230	3	Bowie State	FA-09	FA-Pit-09
34 Stephens-Howling, L.	RB	5-7	185	4	Pittsburgh	FA-Ari-13	D7a-Ari-09

RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
84 Brown, Antonio	WR	5-10	186	3	Central Michigan	D6b-10	D6b-Pit-10
80 Burress, Plaxico	WR	6-5	232	11	Michigan State	FA-12	D1-Pit-00
89 Cotchery, Jerricho	WR	6-1	200	9	NC State	FA-11	D4-NYJ-04
18 Gilreath, David	WR	5-10	169	1	Wisconsin	FA-12	FA-Ind-11
85 Johnson, David	TE	6-2	260	5	Arkansas State	D7-09	D7-Pit-09
83 Miller, Heath	TE	6-5	256	8	Virginia	D1-05	D1-Pit-05
14 Moye, Derek	WR	6-5	210	1	Penn State	FA-12	FA-Mia-12
81 Paulson, David	TE	6-4	246	1	Oregon	D7b-12	D7b-Pit-12
88 Sanders, Emmanuel	WR	5-11	180	3	SMU	D3-10	D3-Pit-10
87 Spaeth, Matt	TE	6-7	260	6	Minnesota	FA-Chi-13	D3-Pit-07

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
76 Adams, Mike	T	6-7	323	1	Ohio State	D2-12	D2-Pit-12
68 Beachum, Kelvin	G	6-3	303	1	SMU	D7d-12	D7d-Pit-12
72 Cheadle, Justin	G	6-3	305	1	California	FA-12	FA-KC-12
66 DeCastro, David	G	6-5	316	1	Stanford	D1-12	D1-Pit-12
77 Gilbert, Marcus	T	6-6	330	2	Florida	D2-11	D2-Pit-11
71 Long, Joe	T	6-5	304	1	Wayne State (MI)	FA-12	FA-StL-12
62 Malecki, John	G	6-2	298	1	Pittsburgh	FA-11	FA-Ten-10
53 Pouncey, Maurkice	C	6-4	304	3	Florida	D1-10	D1-Pit-10
61 Whimper, Guy	T	6-5	315	6	East Carolina	FA-Jac-13	D4-NYG-06

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
97 Heyward, Cameron	DE	6-5	288	2	Ohio State	D1-11	D1-Pit-11
96 Hood, Ziggy	DE	6-3	300	4	Missouri	D1-09	D1-Pit-09
99 Keisel, Brett	DE	6-5	285	11	BYU	D7b-02	D7b-Pit-02
90 McLendon, Steve	NT	6-4	280	3	Troy	FA-09	FA-Pit-09
95 Ta'amu, Alameda	NT	6-3	348	1	Washington	D4-12	D4-Pit-12
65 Woods, Al	DE	6-4	307	3	LSU	FA-11	D4-NO-10

LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
54 Carter, Chris	LB	6-1	248	2	Fresno State	D5-11	D5-Pit-11
50 Foote, Larry	LB	6-1	239	11	Michigan	FA-10	D4-Pit-02
40 McFadden, Marshall	LB	6-1	233	1	South Carolina St.	FA-12	FA-Pit-12
57 Robinson, Adrian	LB	6-1	250	1	Temple	FA-12	FA-Pit-12
51 Spence, Sean	LB	5-11	231	1	Miami	D3-12	D3-Pit-12
55 Sylvester, Stevenson	LB	6-2	231	3	Utah	D5c-10	D5c-Pit-10
94 Timmons, Lawrence	LB	6-1	234	6	Florida State	D1-07	D1-Pit-07
56 Woodley, LaMarr	LB	6-2	265	6	Michigan	D2-07	D2-Pit-07
93 Worilds, Jason	LB	6-2	262	3	Virginia Tech	D2-10	D2-Pit-10

DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
28 Allen, Cortez	CB	6-1	196	2	The Citadel	D4-11	D4-Pit-11
31 Brown, Curtis	CB	6-0	185	2	Texas	D3-11	D3-Pit-11
25 Clark, Ryan	S	5-11	205	11	LSU	FA-Was-06	FA-NYG-02
42 Cromartie-Smith, D.	S	6-2	203	1	UTEP	FA-10	FA-Pit-10
22 Gay, William	CB	5-10	190	6	Louisville	FA-Ari-13	D5b-Pit-07
21 Golden, Robert	S	5-11	202	1	Arizona	FA-12	FA-Pit-12
39 Green, Isaiah	CB	5-10	180	1	Fresno State	FA-12	FA-Buf-12
37 King, Justin	CB	5-11	197	4	Penn State	FA-12	D4-StL-08
43 Polamalu, Troy	S	5-10	207	10	USC	D1-03	D1-Pit-03
24 Taylor, Ike	CB	6-2	195	10	UL Lafayette	D4-03	D4-Pit-03
30 Van Dyke, DeMarcus	CB	6-1	187	2	Miami	FA-12	D3-Oak-11
35 Victorian, Josh	CB	5-10	190	1	Louisiana Tech	FA-12	FA-Bal-11

SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
9 Butler, Drew	P	6-1	204	1	Georgia	FA-12	FA-Pit-12
2 Hrapmann, Daniel	K	5-9	164	1	Southern Miss	FA-12	FA-Pit-12
8 Moorman, Brian	P	6-0	174	12	Pittsburg State	FA-13	FA-Sea-99
6 Suisham, Shaun	K	6-0	200	8	Bowling Green	FA-10	FA-Pit-05
60 Warren, Greg	LS	6-3	252	8	North Carolina	FA-05	FA-Pit-05

AP Photo/Don Wright

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	84	Antonio Brown
	89	Jerricho Cotchery
WR	88	Emmanuel Sanders
	80	Plaxico Burress
LT	77	Marcus Gilbert
	76	Mike Adams
LG	73	Ramon Foster
	68	Kelvin Beachum
C	53	Maurkice Pouncey
	62	John Malecki
RG	66	David DeCastro
	68	Kelvin Beachum
RT	76	Mike Adams
	61	Guy Whimper
TE	83	Heath Miller
	81	David Paulson
QB	7	Ben Roethlisberger
	5	Bruce Gradkowski
FB	46	Will Johnson
	85	David Johnson
RB	26	Le'Veon Bell (R)
	33	Isaac Redman

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	96	Ziggy Hood
	97	Cameron Heyward
NT	90	Steve McLendon
	74	Alameda Ta'amu
DE	99	Brett Keisel
	97	Cameron Heyward
OLB	93	Jason Worilds
	95	Jarvis Jones (R)
ILB	94	Lawrence Timmons
	55	Stevenson Sylvester
ILB	50	Larry Foote
	55	Stevenson Sylvester
OLB	56	LaMarr Woodley
	54	Chris Carter
CB	28	Cortez Allen
	31	Curtis Brown
CB	24	Ike Taylor
	22	William Gay
SS	43	Troy Polamalu
	29	Shamarko Thomas (R)
FS	25	Ryan Clark
	21	Robert Golden

SPECIALISTS

K	6	Shaun Suisham
P	9	Drew Butler
KR	34	LaRod Stephens-Howling
PR	84	Antonio Brown

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
David Paulson, TE

DEEP-SLEEPER
Markus Wheaton, WR

OVERVALUED
Troy Polamalu, S

TOP ROOKIE
Le'Veon Bell, RB

BOUNCE-BACK
Antonio Brown, WR

TOP IDP
Lawrence Timmons, LB

For more Fantasy, visit AthlonSports.com/fantasy or follow @AthlonSports on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 8	Tennessee	1:00	6-10	313.1 (26)	374.9 (27)	20.6 (23)	29.4 (32)
2	Sept. 16	at Cincinnati (Mon.)	8:40	10-6	332.7 (22)	319.7 (6)	24.4 (12)	20.0 (8)
3	Sept. 22	Chicago	8:30	10-6	310.6 (28)	315.6 (5)	23.4 (16)	17.3 (3)
4	Sept. 29	Minnesota (London)	1:00	10-6	336.6 (20)	350.0 (16)	23.7 (14)	21.8 (14)
5		BYE						
6	Oct. 13	at N.Y. Jets	1:00	6-10	299.2 (30)	323.4 (8)	17.6 (28)	23.4 (20)
7	Oct. 20	Baltimore	4:25	10-6	352.5 (16)	350.9 (17)	24.9 (10)	21.5 (12)
8	Oct. 27	at Oakland	4:05	4-12	344.0 (18)	354.5 (18)	18.1 (26)	27.7 (28)
9	Nov. 3	at New England	4:25	12-4	427.9 (1)	373.2 (25)	34.8 (1)	20.7 (T9)
10	Nov. 10	Buffalo	1:00	6-10	342.9 (19)	362.9 (22)	21.5 (21)	27.2 (26)
11	Nov. 17	Detroit	1:00	4-12	408.8 (3)	341.1 (13)	23.2 (17)	27.3 (27)
12	Nov. 24	at Cleveland	1:00	5-11	314.2 (25)	363.8 (23)	18.9 (24)	23.0 (19)
13	Nov. 28	at Baltimore (Thu.)	8:30	10-6	352.5 (16)	350.9 (17)	24.9 (10)	21.5 (T12)
14	Dec. 8	Miami	1:00	7-9	311.5 (27)	356.8 (21)	18.0 (27)	19.8 (7)
15	Dec. 15	Cincinnati	8:30	10-6	332.7 (22)	319.7 (6)	24.4 (12)	20.0 (8)
16	Dec. 22	at Green Bay	4:25	11-5	359.4 (13)	336.8 (11)	27.1 (5)	21.0 (11)
17	Dec. 29	Cleveland	1:00	5-11	314.2 (25)	363.8 (23)	18.9 (24)	23.0 (19)

HOUSTON TEXANS

AFC SOUTH FORECAST **1**

See more cheerleaders by visiting AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

THE ORGANIZATION

FOUNDER/CHAIRMAN/CEO: Bob McNair
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/ GENERAL MANAGER: Rick Smith
STADIUM: Reliant Stadium (71,054)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.houstontexans.com
TICKETS: 832-667-2390
TRAINING CAMP: Methodist Training Center (Houston, Texas)

The opportunity to claim the AFC championship was there for the Houston Texans in 2012. Then they folded down the stretch. As a new team takes shape, fans are still grumbling about how the 12–2 Texans needed only one win to secure the AFC's No. 1 playoff seed but inexplicably lost at home, 23–6 to Minnesota, and then failed in the season finale, 28–16 at Indianapolis. A 41–28 playoff exit at New England in the second round reminded this franchise just how important postseason home-field advantage can be.

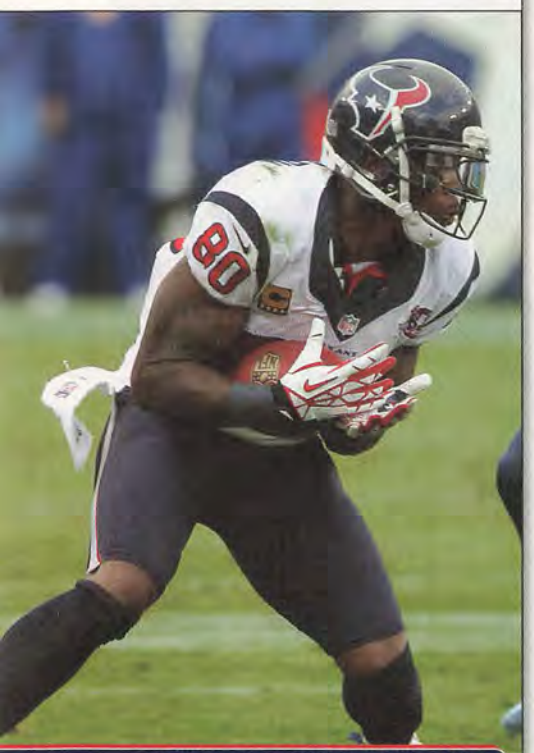
The Texans didn't need to overhaul the roster, but they added some components, namely Pro Bowl safety Ed Reed and Pro Bowl punter Shane Lechler. The stars are still in place — running back Arian Foster, wide receiver Andre Johnson, defensive end J.J. Watt, quarterback Matt Schaub and inside linebacker Brian Cushing — but a prevailing question still stands: Is this team a bona fide Super Bowl contender or just another pretender?

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Gary Kubiak
RECORD WITH TEAM: 59-53
CAREER RECORD: 59-53
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Rick Dennison
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Wade Phillips

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

Playoffs



ANDRE JOHNSON, WR

OFFENSE Offseason offensive needs were obvious: Find a wide receiver to go with Johnson, and resolve the right tackle position. The Texans drafted Clemson wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins in the first round and selected North Carolina offensive tackle Brennan Williams in the third round. If right tackle Derek Newton is slow to return from patellar tendon surgery, look for Williams to get his shot immediately. The Texans aren't deep at wide receiver, so Hopkins will have every opportunity to prove he's worthy of a starting spot. Johnson gets so much attention on the other side that Hopkins will see man coverage and can expect to get his share of the workload if he proves himself in preseason.

The right guard position also should improve. Ben Jones is a second-year pro who was considered one of the NFL's top center prospects when selected in the fourth round a year ago. He eventually won the job at right guard, starting 10 games. His progress and the right tackle resolution will be vital to how the team moves forward.

That's because when talking Texans, this offense is built around Foster. The 2010 NFL rushing champ and three-time Pro Bowl star has been nothing short of phenomenal in his three years as a starter. The problem is, the Texans can't always count on just handing off to him because defenses crowd the box. This is especially evident in the red zone, when too often the Texans have tried simply to run it in. Foster did have 15 rushing TDs in 2012, but conservative play-calling doesn't always produce touchdowns. Too many times, ideal scoring chances resulted in field goals.

To that end, Schaub has to be more consistent in big games. He made his second Pro Bowl last season, passing for 4,008 yards with 22 TDs and just 12 interceptions, but he was seriously outplayed in losses to Green Bay and New England by quarterbacks Aaron Rodgers and Tom Brady. This season, Schaub will go up against Baltimore's Joe Flacco and San Francisco's Colin Kaepernick on the road as well as Brady and Denver's Peyton Manning at home. Schaub has to show something in those games, or the questions will linger about whether he has the right stuff to get his team to the Super Bowl.

DEFENSE Watt couldn't have been more dominant as NFL Defensive Player of the Year with a league-best 20.5 sacks and 16 passes defended. Every opponent has to game-plan for the disruptive defensive end. But the Texans have to shore up other areas around him.

The Texans dropped from No. 3 in pass defense to No. 16 and allowed 29 TD passes compared to 18 the year before. Rodgers burned them for six TD passes, Manning for two and Brady for a total of seven in two games. And it wasn't only the big-name quarterbacks slicing them up. The Texans edged Detroit 34–31 in overtime on Thanksgiving Day, but the Lions had 525 total yards with Matthew Stafford passing for 441 yards and two scores.

That's why the Texans went out and signed Reed and drafted safety D.J. Swearinger in the second round. Reed is known as one of the NFL's greatest ball-hawks, and the Texans hope his presence will discourage teams from throwing deep as often. Swearinger will push Danieal Manning at safety, although Manning should keep his job as the rookie transitions to the league. The Texans are pretty much set defensively everywhere else.

The October loss of Cushing to a knee injury was a huge blow. The 3-4 scheme needs its anchor back healthy. They drafted outside linebackers Sam Montgomery and Trevardo Williams, which suggests sliding linebacker Brooks Reed inside. Wade Phillips' defense ranked seventh in yards allowed (323.2 ypg) and tied for ninth in points allowed (20.7 ppg).

Johnson, Foster: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Cheer: Bob Levey/Getty Images

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

One-armed menace NFL Defensive Player of the Year J.J. Watt admitted in an offseason radio interview that he played hurt with a dislocated left elbow last season, when the Houston defensive end still had a league-high 20.5 sacks and 16 passes defended, the latter a record for a defensive end. "As the season went on, I got more and more confidence in it and obviously it didn't hinder me too much; I had some success out there," the third-year pro said. "But (I'm) looking forward to a 100 percent full healthy season." Watt hopes he won't again have to wear a brace on the left elbow, which he injured early in the preseason.

And 'Action, Arian!' Running back Arian Foster had the chance during Pro Bowl week to try some acting. The NFL star played himself in a Feb. 18 episode of "Hawaii Five-0," fittingly titled "Pa'ani," Hawaiian for "The Game." Foster works with detectives to help solve a murder. In one amusing scene, actor Scott Caan is supposed to be following a line of questioning pertaining to the case but instead gives Foster a hard time for fumbling the ball on a play that cost Caan's character a fantasy football championship. They were there to talk to him because Foster's character had been alone in a bar and ended up punching a guy who had been arguing with a prostitute. Videotape shows the man swing and miss Foster, who connects with a vicious right hook. "He's even hotter without the pads and the helmet," a female detective observes. Foster landed another role in the big-budget Hollywood film "Draft Day," where he will play fictional NFL Draft prospect Ray Jennings. It's worth noting that Foster wasn't drafted in real life. The movie stars Kevin Costner as a Cleveland Browns general manager trying to save football in the city by trading for the draft's No. 1 overall pick.

Locker neighbors Rookie wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins won't have to look far to ask for advice on how to handle the NFL. The first-round choice, selected 27th overall, has a locker next to Pro Bowl wide receiver Andre Johnson. "I'm going to make sure that he teaches me what he knows so that I can be in his position come 11 years from now," Hopkins said of the six-time Pro Bowl mentor.

Not a defender this time Hopkins' selection marked only the second time in general manager Rick Smith's seven drafts that he took an offensive player in the opening round. The previous exception was Pro Bowl tackle Duane Brown, chosen 26th overall in 2008.

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
FB	Greg Jones	Jacksonville
P	Shane Lechler	Oakland
S	Ed Reed	Baltimore

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
LB	Connor Barwin	Philadelphia
C	Antoine Caldwell	Free agent
TE	James Casey	Philadelphia
S	Quintin Demps	Free agent
K	Shayne Graham	Cleveland
LB	Bradie James	Free agent
P	Donnie Jones	Philadelphia
S	Glover Quin	Detroit
WR	Kevin Walter	Tennessee

ARIAN FOSTER, RB

2012 RESULTS (12–4)

Sept. 9	Miami	W	30–10
Sept. 16	at Jacksonville	W	27–7
Sept. 23	at Denver	W	31–25
Sept. 30	Tennessee	W	38–14
Oct. 8	at N.Y. Jets	W	23–17
Oct. 14	Green Bay	L	24–42
Oct. 21	Baltimore	W	43–13
Nov. 4	Buffalo	W	21–9
Nov. 11	at Chicago	W	13–6
Nov. 18	Jacksonville (ot)	W	43–37
Nov. 22	at Detroit (ot)	W	34–31
Dec. 2	at Tennessee	W	24–10
Dec. 10	at New England	L	14–42
Dec. 16	Indianapolis	W	29–17
Dec. 23	Minnesota	L	6–23
Dec. 30	at Indianapolis	L	16–28
Postseason			
Jan. 5	Cincinnati	W	19–13
Jan. 13	at New England	L	28–41

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Matt Schaub	544	350	4,008	22	12
T.J. Yates	10	4	38	0	1

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Arian Foster	351	1,424	4.1	15
Justin Forsett	63	374	5.9	1
Ben Tate	65	279	4.3	2

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Andre Johnson	112	1,598	14.3	4
Owen Daniels	62	716	11.5	6
Kevin Walter	41	518	12.6	2
Arian Foster	40	217	5.4	2
James Casey	24	330	9.7	3

KICKING: Shayne Graham, 31-38 FGs, 45-45 XPs, 138 points

TACKLES: Glover Quin, 84; J.J. Watt, 81

SACKS: J.J. Watt, 20.5; Antonio Smith, 7

INTERCEPTIONS: Kareem Jackson, 4; Johnathan Joseph, 2

FORCED FUMBLES: J.J. Watt, 4

2012 STATS

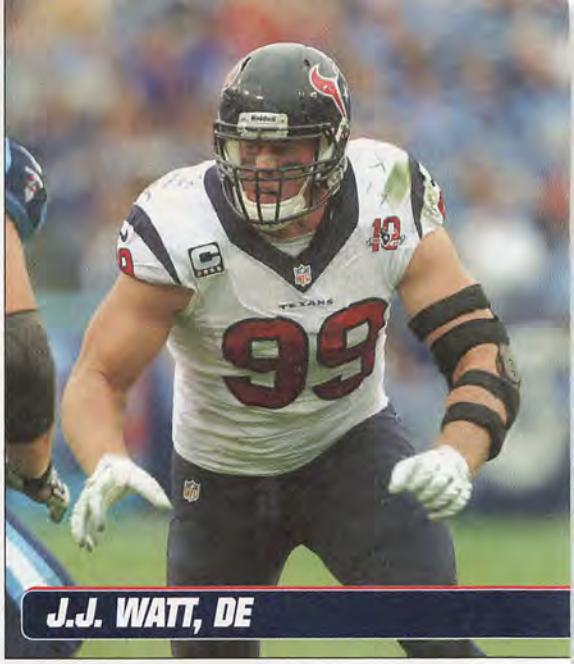
TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	372.1	7	3
Rushing	132.7	8	4
Passing	239.4	11	5
Scoring	26.0	8	3
Third Down %	37.6	17	9
Punt Returns	10.9	9	7
Kick Returns	21.7	23	T11

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	323.2	7	4
Rushing	97.5	7	4
Passing	225.8	16	7
Scoring	20.7	T9	T5
Interceptions	15	T14	5
Sacks	44.0	T5	3
Turnover Differential	+12	7	2

SPECIALISTS Randy Bullock takes over as placekicker for Shayne Graham. A fifth-round pick in 2012, Bullock has yet to attempt an NFL field goal because he suffered a groin tear in preseason and ended up on injured reserve. A lot of eyes will be on him. The former Lou Groza Award winner displayed a strong and accurate leg at Texas A&M, making 29-of-33 field goal attempts as a senior.

The Texans had to pay handsomely for Lechler, a seven-time Pro Bowl punter. Houston coughed up $5.5 million over three years with a $1 million signing bonus. But he's worth it. And he'll love punting in climate-controlled Reliant Stadium. Expect Lechler, who has a career 47.5-yard average in 13 seasons, to help the Texans earn an edge in field position.

Second-year wide receiver Keshawn Martin is a promising returner, averaging 23.9 yards on 31 kickoffs with a long of 54 yards and 12.1 yards on 22 punt returns with a long of 71.



J.J. WATT, DE

FINAL ANALYSIS The Texans must make the Super Bowl or many of their fans will be convinced that the window of opportunity is closing. That's how high the bar has been raised in Houston. And the Texans realize this. They saw Baltimore win the championship last year, the same Ravens whom the Texans annihilated 43–13 at Reliant Stadium in October. It's not a question of whether the Texans have the talent; it's how they perform down the stretch and in the playoffs. The first objective has to be to secure what eluded them at the end of 2012, the AFC's No. 1 playoff seed and home-field advantage.

Schaub has to raise his game against the NFL's elite, which means throwing the ball down the field more and taking some chances when they present themselves. Foster can't carry the offense, although having him ensures that the team will win most weeks.

The playoffs are about which team can get hot at the right time. The Texans have won the AFC South title each of the last two years but weren't at their best in the playoffs. If they don't seize the moment this year, when will they?

NFL DRAFT 2013 TEXANS IN THE DRAFT

C+

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	DeAndre Hopkins	WR	6-1	214	Clemson
2.	D.J. Swearinger	S	6-0	210	South Carolina
3.	Brennan Williams	T	6-6	318	North Carolina
3.	Sam Montgomery	LB	6-3	262	LSU
4.	Trevardo Williams	LB	6-2	233	Connecticut
6.	David Quessenberry	T	6-5	302	San Jose State
6.	Alan Bonner	WR	5-10	193	Jacksonville State
6.	Chris Jones	DT	6-2	302	Bowling Green
6.	Ryan Griffin	TE	6-6	247	Connecticut

DeAndre Hopkins should have every opportunity to display his big-play ability. The Clemson pass-catcher had 18 TD receptions last season. D.J. Swearinger envisions playing alongside Ed Reed, who signed a three-year contract but is older and injury-prone. Swearinger might play for him as needed. Brennan Williams could start immediately at right tackle if Derek Newton isn't healed from knee surgery. Sam Montgomery will get a look at outside linebacker, presumably pushing Brooks Reed inside. Trevardo Williams is expected to back up Montgomery. David Quessenberry can play guard or tackle, so he could be a key depth addition. Alan Bonner, Chris Jones and Ryan Griffin will fight to make the roster.

Watt: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Hopkins: Wade Payne

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
7 Keenum, Case	QB	6-1	209	1	Houston	FA-12	FA-Hou-12
McGee, Stephen	QB	6-3	225	2	Texas A&M	FA-13	D4-Dal-09
8 Schaub, Matt	QB	6-5	239	9	Virginia	T-Atl-07	D3-Atl-04
13 Yates, T.J.	QB	6-4	219	2	North Carolina	D5b-11	D5b-Hou-11

RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
40 Clutts, Tyler	FB	6-2	260	2	Fresno State	T-Chi-12	FA-Cle-10
23 Foster, Arian	RB	6-1	228	4	Tennessee	FA-09	FA-Hou-09
33 Jones, Greg	FB	6-1	265	9	Florida State	FA-Jac-13	D2b-Jac-04
44 Tate, Ben	RB	5-11	215	3	Auburn	D2-10	D2-Hou-10

RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
81 Daniels, Owen	TE	6-3	249	7	Wisconsin	D4-06	D4-Hou-06
88 Graham, Garrett	TE	6-3	244	3	Wisconsin	D4b-10	D4b-Hou-10
18 Jean, Lestar	WR	6-3	212	2	Florida Atlantic	FA-11	FA-Hou-11
80 Johnson, Andre	WR	6-3	230	10	Miami	D1-03	D1-Hou-03
15 Maehl, Jeff	WR	6-0	185	1	Oregon	FA-12	FA-Hou-11
82 Martin, Keshawn	WR	5-11	190	1	Michigan State	D4b-12	D4b-Hou-12
11 Posey, DeVier	WR	6-1	206	1	Ohio State	D3a-12	D3a-Hou-12
48 Supernaw, Phillip	TE	6-5	250	1	Ouachita Baptist	FA-12	FA-Hou-12

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
79 Brooks, Brandon	G	6-5	340	1	Miami (OH)	D3b-12	D3b-Hou-12
76 Brown, Duane	T	6-4	320	5	Virginia Tech	D1-08	D1-Hou-08
66 Gardner, Andrew	T	6-6	309	3	Georgia Tech	FA-11	D6-Mia-09
68 Harris, Ryan	T	6-5	300	5	Notre Dame	W-Den-12	D3-Den-07
60 Jones, Ben	G/C	6-3	303	1	Georgia	D4a-12	D4a-Hou-12
69 Mondek, Nick	T	6-5	303	1	Purdue	FA-12	D6-Hou-12
55 Myers, Chris	C	6-4	290	8	Miami	T-Den-08	D6-Den-05
75 Newton, Derek	T	6-6	318	2	Arkansas State	D7a-11	D7a-Hou-11
74 Smith, Wade	G	6-4	307	10	Memphis	FA-KC-10	D3-Mia-03
67 White, Cody	G	6-3	301	1	Illinois State	FA-12	FA-Hou-12

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
65 Browner, Keith	DE	6-4	279	1	California	FA-12	FA-Hou-12
95 Cody, Shaun	NT	6-4	307	8	USC	FA-Det-09	D2-Det-05
93 Crick, Jared	DE	6-4	287	1	Nebraska	D4c-12	D4c-Hou-12
91 Harris, Ra'Shon	NT	6-5	301	2	Oregon	FA-11	D6-Pit-09
72 Hunter, David	DE	6-2	303	1	Houston	FA-12	FA-Hou-12
97 McClain, Terrell	NT	6-2	300	2	South Florida	FA-12	D3-Car-11
92 Mitchell, Earl	NT	6-3	300	3	Arizona	D3-10	D3-Hou-10
94 Smith, Antonio	DE	6-4	284	8	Oklahoma State	FA-Ari-09	D5-Ari-04
99 Watt, J.J.	DE	6-5	295	2	Wisconsin	D1-11	D1-Hou-11

LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
50 Braman, Bryan	OLB	6-5	251	2	West Texas A&M	FA-11	FA-Hou-11
49 Collins, Cameron	ILB	6-2	241	1	Oregon State	FA-12	FA-Hou-12
56 Cushing, Brian	ILB	6-3	255	4	USC	D1-09	D1-Hou-09
52 Dobbins, Tim	ILB	6-1	236	7	Iowa State	FA-11	D5-SD-06
96 Jamison, Tim	OLB	6-3	285	4	Michigan	FA-09	FA-Hou-09
64 Johnson, Delano	OLB	6-4	280	1	Bowie State	FA-12	FA-Hou-12
59 Mercilus, Whitney	OLB	6-4	257	1	Illinois	D1-12	D1-Hou-12
47 Mohamed, Mike	ILB	6-3	245	2	California	FA-12	D6-Den-11
58 Reed, Brooks	ILB	6-3	257	2	Arizona	D2a-11	D2a-Hou-11
51 Sharpton, Darryl	ILB	5-11	234	3	Miami	D4a-10	D4a-Hou-10

DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
20 Carmichael, Roc	CB	5-10	195	2	Virginia Tech	D4-11	D4-Hou-11
26 Harris, Brandon	CB	5-10	194	2	Miami	D2b-11	D2b-Hou-11
25 Jackson, Kareem	CB	5-10	192	3	Alabama	D1-10	D1-Hou-10
24 Joseph, Johnathan	CB	5-11	189	7	South Carolina	FA-Cin-11	D1-Cin-06
31 Keo, Shiloh	FS	5-11	202	2	Idaho	D5a-11	D5a-Hou-11
38 Manning, Danieal	SS	5-11	210	7	Abilene Christian	FA-Chi-11	D2-Chi-06
21 McCain, Brice	CB	5-9	185	4	Utah	D6-09	D6-Hou-09
35 Pleasant, Eddie	SS	5-10	210	1	Oregon	FA-12	FA-Hou-12
20 Reed, Ed	FS	5-11	205	11	Miami	FA-Bal-13	D1-Bal-02

SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
4 Bullock, Randy	K	5-9	208	1	Texas A&M	D5-12	D5-Hou-12
9 Lechler, Shane	P	6-2	230	13	Texas A&M	FA-Oak-13	D5-Oak-00
46 Weeks, Jon	LS	5-10	248	3	Baylor	FA-10	FA-Hou-10

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	80	Andre Johnson
	18	Lestar Jean
WR	10	DeAndre Hopkins (R)
	82	Keshawn Martin
LT	76	Duane Brown
	66	Andrew Gardner
LG	74	Wade Smith
		David Quessenberry (R)
C	55	Chris Myers
	60	Ben Jones
RG	60	Ben Jones
	67	Cody White
RT		Brennan Williams (R)
	75	Derek Newton
TE	81	Owen Daniels
	88	Garrett Graham
QB	8	Matt Schaub
	13	T.J. Yates
FB	33	Greg Jones
	40	Tyler Clutts
RB	23	Arian Foster
	44	Ben Tate

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	99	J.J. Watt
	96	Tim Jamison
NT	92	Earl Mitchell
	95	Shaun Cody
DE	94	Antonio Smith
	93	Jared Crick
SLB		Sam Montgomery (R)
		Trevardo Williams (R)
ILB	56	Brian Cushing
		Mike Mohamed
ILB	58	Brooks Reed
	52	Tim Dobbins
OLB	59	Whitney Mercilus
	96	Tim Jamison
CB	25	Kareem Jackson
	26	Brandon Harris
CB	24	Johnathan Joseph
	21	Brice McCain
SS	38	Danieal Manning
		D.J. Swearinger (R)
FS	20	Ed Reed
	31	Shiloh Keo

SPECIALISTS

K	4	Randy Bullock
P	9	Shane Lechler

KR	82	Keshawn Martin
PR	82	Keshawn Martin

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
Keshawn Martin, WR

DEEP-SLEEPER
Garrett Graham, TE

OVERVALUED
Ben Tate, RB

TOP ROOKIE
DeAndre Hopkins, WR

BOUNCE-BACK
Brian Cushing, LB

TOP IDP
J.J. Watt, DE

For more Fantasy, visit **AthlonSports.com/fantasy** or follow **@AthlonSports** on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 9	at San Diego (Mon.)	10:20	7-9	297.2 (31)	326.4 (9)	21.9 (20)	21.9 (16)
2	Sept. 15	Tennessee	1:00	6-10	313.1 (26)	374.9 (27)	20.6 (23)	29.4 (32)
3	Sept. 22	at Baltimore	1:00	10-6	352.5 (16)	350.9 (17)	24.9 (10)	21.5 (12)
4	Sept. 29	Seattle	1:00	11-5	350.6 (17)	306.2 (4)	25.8 (9)	15.3 (1)
5	Oct. 6	at San Francisco	8:30	11-4-1	361.8 (11)	294.4 (3)	24.8 (11)	17.1 (2)
6	Oct. 13	St. Louis	1:00	7-8-1	329.0 (23)	342.6 (14)	18.7 (25)	21.8 (14)
7	Oct. 20	at Kansas City	1:00	2-14	319.2 (24)	356.5 (20)	13.2 (32)	26.6 (25)
8		BYE						
9	Nov. 3	Indianapolis	8:30	11-5	362.4 (10)	374.2 (26)	22.3 (18)	24.2 (21)
10	Nov. 10	at Arizona	4:25	5-11	263.1 (32)	337.8 (12)	15.6 (31)	22.3 (17)
11	Nov. 17	Oakland	1:00	4-12	344.0 (18)	354.5 (18)	18.1 (26)	27.7 (28)
12	Nov. 24	Jacksonville	1:00	2-14	299.2 (29)	380.5 (30)	15.9 (30)	27.8 (29)
13	Dec. 1	New England	4:25	12-4	427.9 (1)	373.2 (25)	34.8 (1)	20.7 (T9)
14	Dec. 5	at Jacksonville (Thu.)	8:25	2-14	299.2 (29)	380.5 (30)	15.9 (30)	27.8 (29)
15	Dec. 15	at Indianapolis	1:00	11-5	362.4 (10)	374.2 (26)	22.3 (18)	24.2 (21)
16	Dec. 22	Denver	1:00	13-3	397.9 (4)	290.8 (2)	30.1 (2)	18.1 (4)
17	Dec. 29	at Tennessee	1:00	6-10	313.1 (26)	374.9 (27)	20.6 (23)	29.4 (32)

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

No more sneaking up on the NFL. The Indianapolis Colts blew their underdog cover in 2012 with a most unexpected climb to 11–5 and a playoff spot only one year after a 2–14 train wreck.

First-year general manager Ryan Grigson initiated himself by winning NFL Executive of the Year. First-year head coach Chuck Pagano endeared himself to a team and community with his inspiring fight against leukemia and emotional return to the sideline. Rookie quarterback Andrew Luck turned out to be every bit as talented and smart as advertised.

Just like that, the Colts are Super Bowl contenders in the eyes of many, and so soon after parting ways with Peyton Manning in March 2012. Who woulda thunk it?

Pagano suggests he hasn't accomplished anything yet. The Colts are still "Building The Monster," as player T-shirts remind. As much as everyone is excited about what could come next, the bottom line is about winning Super Bowls and hoisting the Vince Lombardi Trophy.

See more cheerleaders by visiting AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

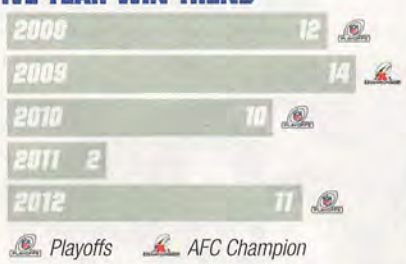
THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER/CEO: Jim Irsay
GENERAL MANAGER: Ryan Grigson
VICE PRESIDENT OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS: Jimmy Raye
STADIUM: Lucas Oil Stadium (62,421)
SURFACE: FieldTurf
WEBSITE: www.colts.com
TICKETS: 800-745-3000
TRAINING CAMP: Anderson University (Anderson, Ind.)

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Chuck Pagano
RECORD WITH TEAM: 11-5
CAREER RECORD: 11-5
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Pep Hamilton
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Greg Manusky

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



REGGIE WAYNE, WR

OFFENSE Offensive coordinator Bruce Arians parlayed a stint as interim head coach into a permanent title with Arizona, so the Colts hired Luck's former Stanford play-caller, Pep Hamilton. This should translate to a more balanced passing attack — Arians hated dink-and-dunk — with Luck utilizing more short-range throws in addition to going deep. He took 41 sacks last year and had to hold the ball too long behind a below-average offensive line.

The Colts had money to spend in free agency and used a chunk on Gosder Cherilus to play right tackle. They also added guard Donald Thomas. Grigson is a former O-lineman who ensured what he called a "cauldron of competition" for training camp with draft picks used on offensive guard Hugh Thornton and center Khaled Holmes. How quickly the rookies transition will impact who stays and goes on a reshuffled front.

While wide receiver Reggie Wayne delivered his sixth Pro Bowl season and flourished in the slot formation when the Colts went with three wide receivers, the team needed another speed guy to replace free agent departure Donnie Avery. They signed former first-round pick Darrius Heyward-Bey for one year. Like Avery, Heyward-Bey is fast, but drops are a concern.

Tight ends Dwayne Allen and Coby Fleener showed promise as rookies, especially Allen, who the Colts should utilize more — often times he helped block and even ran the ball as an H-back. Allen's a mismatch in the pass game, and Luck needs to find him more.

The run game is still a question mark. That Vick Ballard proved to be a reliable rookie was a big bonus for a fifth-round pick. Donald Brown got hurt again, and the former first-round pick is in a contract year. The Colts talk about wanting to run the ball. Seventh-round rookie Kerwynn Williams is valued as a kick returner but could be an ideal third down back.

DEFENSE Pagano used the word "hybrid" to describe the team changing from its usual 4-3 scheme to a 3-4 last year. That's another way of saying the Colts didn't have the parts to play an aggressive 3-4 like he did as Baltimore's defensive coordinator.

More parts are now in place. While some were surprised at the money shelled out for certain players, needs were addressed with the addition of several free agents, most notably Pro Bowl safety LaRon Landry, outside linebacker Erik Walden and cornerback Greg Toler.

Landry is a run-stop thumper, the likes of which the Colts haven't had since 2007 NFL Defensive Player of the Year Bob Sanders. Walden "sets the edge" as a decent run-stuffer and adequate pass-rusher, although many will unfairly compare him to the guy he's replacing, all-time sack leader Dwight Freeney. The Colts decided not to re-sign Freeney, who didn't fit the 3-4 and had just five sacks last season. Walden had more than 100 tackles in the last two seasons with Green Bay, so the priority is to have a guy on the edge who is responsible on all downs, not just rushing the pocket. If Walden can't come up with enough sacks, first-round pick Bjoern Werner should get his chance.

Toler helps a secondary that lost cornerback Jerraud Powers, an oft-injured but capable starter. They essentially switched addresses — Powers going to Arizona and Toler coming from the Cardinals. While more changes were expected, the Colts opted to hang onto to cornerbacks Darius Butler and Cassius Vaughn, who made plays at times but also got torched.

Eyebrows rose when Grigson gave starter money to San Francisco backup defensive tackle Ricky Jean Francois. But he's another ideal fit in a 3-4. He's worked before with defensive coordinator Greg Manusky and can play either end or tackle.

Luck, Wayne: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Cheer: Michael Hickey/Getty Images

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Circle the calendar The most significant regular-season date for Colts fans is Oct. 20. That's when quarterback Peyton Manning leads the Denver Broncos back to his old home, Lucas Oil Stadium, known as "The House That Peyton Built." It's must-see TV on a Sunday night. Colts quarterback Andrew Luck and Manning are friends, but Luck knows how to downplay a big game. "I'm just looking at Week 1," Luck says. "When that (Denver) week comes up, I'll be looking forward to it."

You want to know what? Running back Vick Ballard surprised as a rookie with a team-leading 814 rushing yards to show there's a place for the fifth-round pick in the NFL. But when he went home to Mississippi, family and friends were more curious about a player who was retiring. "When I left here, the most frequently asked question was, 'How does it feel to play against Ray Lewis?'" Ballard said of the Baltimore Ravens middle linebacker. "Man, what kind of question is that? We're playing football. That's what I tell 'em. He's a great player, Hall of Famer, but he still puts his pants on the same way I do." The Colts lost 24–9 to the eventual Super Bowl XLVII champions in the AFC Wild Card round of the playoffs in what was the final home game for Lewis.

Don't add the hyphen Defensive tackle Ricky Jean Francois can't stand it when people get his unusual name wrong. The last name is Jean Francois, with no hyphen. "I hate it when people hyphenate it because it's not put like that," he says. And the middle name is Barkley. No, it's not for retired NBA star Charles Barkley. The middle name is actually from a Western movie.

Still kicking at 40 Perhaps the greatest clutch kicker in NFL history is entering his 18th season, and it's a contract year. But 40-year-old Adam Vinatieri says he'll worry about his future after 2013 and suggests he's not thinking retirement. "We'll talk about that after the end of the year," he says. "I try to evaluate after every year and see how I'm feeling. If I'm doing well and feeling well, I keep going." Vinatieri, who turns 41 in December, has expressed confidence at kicking 50-yard field goals into his 40s. He was 4-of-7 on field goals of 50 yards or more with a long of 53 yards last season.

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
T	Gosder Cherilus	Detroit
DT	Aubrayo Franklin	San Diego
QB	Matt Hasselbeck	Tennessee
WR	Darrius Heyward-Bey	Oakland
DT	Ricky Jean Francois	San Francisco
S	LaRon Landry	N.Y. Jets
G	Donald Thomas	New England
CB	Greg Toler	Arizona
LB	Erik Walden	Green Bay

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
WR	Donnie Avery	Kansas City
DE	Dwight Freeney	Free Agent
LB	Jerry Hughes	Buffalo
DT	Antonio Johnson	Free Agent
T	Winston Justice	Free Agent
CB	Jerraud Powers	Arizona
QB	Drew Stanton	Arizona
S	Tom Zbikowski	Chicago

ANDREW LUCK, QB

2012 RESULTS (11–5)

Sept. 9	at Chicago	L	21–41
Sept. 16	Minnesota	W	23–20
Sept. 23	Jacksonville	L	17–22
Oct. 7	Green Bay	W	30–27
Oct. 14	at N.Y. Jets	L	9–35
Oct. 21	Cleveland	W	17–13
Oct. 28	at Tennessee (ot)	W	19–13
Nov. 4	Miami	W	23–20
Nov. 8	at Jacksonville	W	27–10
Nov. 18	at New England	L	24–59
Nov. 25	Buffalo	W	20–13
Dec. 2	at Detroit	W	35–33
Dec. 9	Tennessee	W	27–23
Dec. 16	at Houston	L	17–29
Dec. 23	at Kansas City	W	20–13
Dec. 30	Houston	W	28–16
Postseason			
Jan. 6	at Baltimore	L	9–24

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Andrew Luck	627	339	4,374	23	18

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Vick Ballard	211	814	3.9	2
Donald Brown	108	417	3.9	1
Andrew Luck	62	255	4.1	5

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Reggie Wayne	106	1,355	12.8	5
Donnie Avery	60	781	13.0	3
T.Y. Hilton	50	861	17.2	7
Dwayne Allen	45	521	11.6	3
Coby Fleener	26	281	10.8	2

KICKING: Adam Vinatieri, 26-33 FGs, 37-37 XPs, 115 points

TACKLES: Jerrell Freeman, 145; Antoine Bethea, 100

SACKS: Robert Mathis, 8; Dwight Freeney, 5

INTERCEPTIONS: Darius Butler, 4; Vontae Davis, 3

FORCED FUMBLES: Jerrell Freeman, 1

2012 STATS

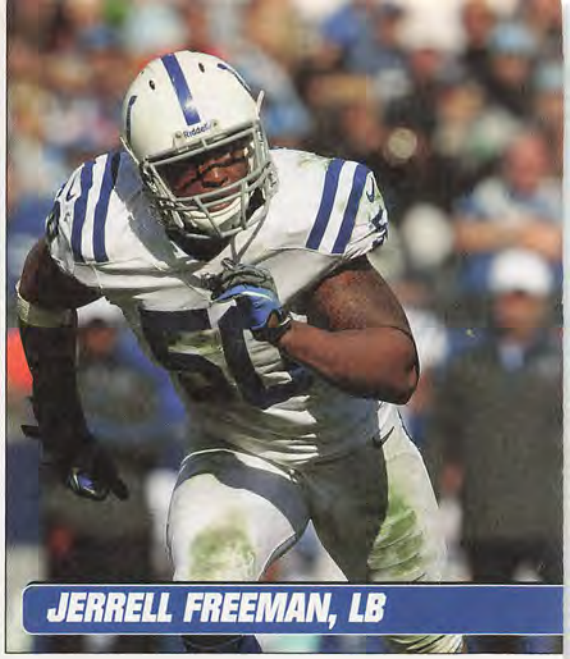
TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	362.4	10	4
Rushing	104.4	22	11
Passing	258.0	7	3
Scoring	22.3	T18	6
Third Down %	42.8	7	3
Punt Returns	11.1	7	6
Kick Returns	22.3	T20	T11

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	374.2	26	14
Rushing	137.5	29	14
Passing	236.8	21	11
Scoring	24.2	21	11
Interceptions	12	T20	T9
Sacks	32.0	T23	12
Turnover Differential	-12	26	13

SPECIALISTS Kicker Adam Vinatieri enters a contract year and turns 41 in late December. It's possible his replacement is on the roster in punter Pat McAfee, who also handles kickoffs and aspires to one day add field goals to his areas of expertise.

The Colts thought enough of McAfee to use the franchise tag on him, which meant $2.9 million for this season. The sides have talked about a long-term contract.

T.Y. Hilton could be one of the league's best punt returners. He started slow as a rookie but eventually displayed the speed and elusiveness to make cover teams miss. He accounted for both Colts TDs in a 20–13 home win over Buffalo in Week 12 with a 75-yard punt return and eight-yard catch. Williams should handle kickoffs and might spell Hilton on punts at times.



JERRELL FREEMAN, LB

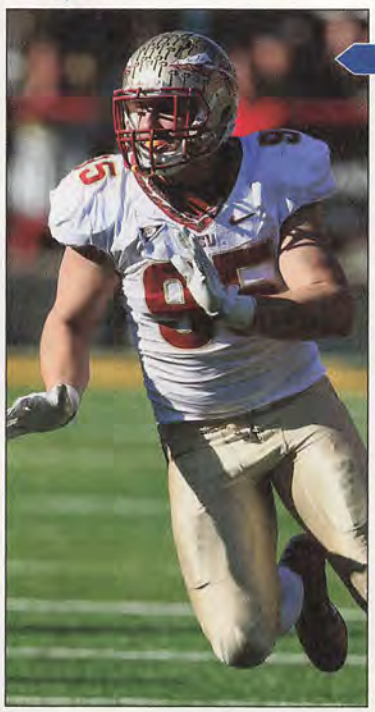
FINAL ANALYSIS As owner Jim Irsay said outside the locker room after January's playoff loss in Baltimore, 11 wins is a tough act to follow.

If Luck's O-line gives him time, watch him take another step forward. That's saying something considering the passer set an NFL rookie record with 4,374 yards. But he should enjoy a better TD-INT ratio than 23-to-18. The Colts will still have to pass to set up the run in stretches, but Luck is mobile and has plenty of weapons. Even if every part doesn't fit, the Colts should be better on offense.

The real question about this team is defense. The Colts couldn't stop the run at times, the pass rush was spotty and the cover guys were exploited too often.

Granted, the team was able to overcome those shortcomings. But Pagano and Grigson realize that next step is a big one and requires a complete team. Winning masks inefficiencies for only so long. The initial hurdle is the two-time defending AFC South champion Houston Texans. They've taken ownership of the division once dominated by the Colts. Houston has learned that climbing the playoff ladder demands more than just talent. The Texans have never won in Indianapolis, so that bodes well if the Colts need a Dec. 15 win in the playoff push.

NFL DRAFT 2013 COLTS IN THE DRAFT



RD PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1. Bjoern Werner	LB	6-3	266	Florida State
3. Hugh Thornton	G	6-3	320	Illinois
4. Khaled Holmes	C/G	6-3	302	USC
5. Montori Hughes	DT	6-4	330	Tennessee-Martin
6. John Boyett	S	5-10	204	Oregon
7. Kerwynn Williams	RB	5-8	195	Utah State
7. Justice Cunningham	TE	6-3	258	South Carolina

Bjoern Werner should get his chance to sack quarterbacks because the player he's behind on the depth chart, free agent signee Erik Walden, averaged less than three sacks the last three seasons elsewhere. Werner had 13 sacks last season at Florida State. Hugh Thornton rejoins his college line coach Joe Gilbert and could plug in at right guard if he beats out starter Mike McGlynn. Khaled Holmes could be groomed to replace Samson Satele. There's a glut at defensive tackle, so it will be interesting to see if Montori Hughes plays some end as well. John Boyett is coming off knee surgeries that sidelined him for all but one game as a senior, so he might need time before he can play. Kerwynn Williams should be a dynamic kick returner. Justice Cunningham is a physical blocker.

Freeman: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Werner: Margaret Bowles

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
5 Harnish, Chandler	QB	6-2	220	1	Northern Illinois	FA-12	D7c-Ind-12
8 Hasselbeck, Matt	QB	6-4	225	14	Boston College	FA-Ten-13	D6-GB-98
12 Luck, Andrew	QB	6-4	234	1	Stanford	D1-12	D1-Ind-12

RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
33 Ballard, Vick	RB	5-10	217	1	Mississippi State	D5-12	D5-Ind-12
31 Brown, Donald	RB	5-10	210	4	Connecticut	D1-09	D1-Ind-09
34 Carter, Delone	RB	5-9	238	2	Syracuse	D4-11	D4-Ind-11
39 Havili, Stanley	FB	6-0	245	2	USC	T-Phi-13	D7b-Phi-11
42 Meggett, Davin	RB	5-8	215	1	Maryland	FA-12	FA-Hou-12

RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
83 Allen, Dwayne	TE	6-3	255	1	Clemson	D3-12	D3-Ind-12
15 Brazill, LaVon	WR	5-11	191	1	Ohio	D6-12	D6-Ind-12
80 Fleener, Coby	TE	6-6	252	1	Stanford	D2-12	D2-Ind-12
81 Heyward-Bey, Darrius	WR	6-2	216	4	Maryland	FA-Oak-13	D1-Oak-09
13 Hilton, T.Y.	WR	5-9	183	1	FIU	D3-12	D3-Ind-12
46 Jones, Dominique	TE	6-3	255	1	Shepherd	FA-12	FA-Ind-12
10 Palmer, Nathan	WR	5-11	195	1	Northern Illinois	FA-12	FA-SF-12
16 Sambrano, Jabin	WR	5-11	175	1	Montana	FA-12	FA-Ind-12
85 Saunders, Weslye	TE	6-5	270	2	South Carolina	FA-12	FA-Pit-11
87 Wayne, Reggie	WR	6-0	198	12	Miami	D1-01	D1-Ind-01
84 Whalen, Griff	WR	5-11	185	1	Stanford	FA-12	FA-Ind-12

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
79 Anderson, Justin	G	6-5	342	1	Georgia	D7-12	D7-Ind-12
74 Castonzo, Anthony	T	6-7	315	2	Boston College	D1-11	D1-Ind-11
78 Cherilus, Gosder	T	6-7	325	5	Boston College	FA-Det-13	D1-Det-08
71 Ijalana, Ben	G	6-4	337	2	Villanova	D2-11	D2-Ind-11
72 Linkenbach, Jeff	T	6-6	323	3	Cincinnati	FA-10	FA-Ind-10
75 McGlynn, Mike	G/C	6-4	327	5	Pittsburgh	FA-Cin-12	D4-Phi-08
76 Reitz, Joe	G	6-7	322	2	Western Michigan	FA-10	FA-Bal-08
64 Satele, Samson	C	6-3	299	6	Hawaii	FA-Oak-12	D2-Mia-07
60 Sowell, Bradley	T	6-7	320	1	Ole Miss	FA-12	FA-TB-12
66 Thomas, Donald	G	6-4	305	5	Connecticut	FA-NE-13	D6-Mia-08
63 Ziemba, Lee	T	6-6	320	2	Auburn	FA-12	D7-Car-11

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
61 Chapman, Josh	NT	6-0	316	1	Alabama	D5-12	D5-Ind-12
97 Franklin, Aubrayo	DT	6-1	315	10	Tennessee	FA-NO-12	D5-Bal-03
67 Guy, Lawrence	DE	6-4	300	2	Arizona State	FA-12	D7-GB-11
65 Heard, Kellen	DT	6-6	339	2	Memphis	FA-12	FA-Oak-10
99 Jean Francois, Ricky	DT	6-3	295	4	LSU	FA-SF-13	D7b-SF-09
91 Mathews, Ricardo	DT	6-3	310	3	Cincinnati	D7-10	D7-Ind-10
96 McKinney, Brandon	NT	6-2	345	7	Michigan State	FA-Bal-12	FA-SD-06
95 Moala, Fili	DE	6-4	310	4	USC	D2-09	D2-Ind-09
94 Nevis, Drake	DT	6-1	310	2	LSU	D3-11	D3-Ind-11
90 Redding, Cory	DE	6-4	315	10	Texas	FA-Bal-12	D3-Det-03
68 Tevaseu, Martin	NT	6-2	325	2	UNLV	W-NYJ-12	FA-Cle-10

LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
51 Angerer, Pat	ILB	6-0	236	3	Iowa	D2-10	D2-Ind-10
53 Conner, Kavell	ILB	6-0	243	3	Clemson	D7-10	D7-Ind-10
50 Freeman, Jerrell	ILB	6-0	234	1	Mary Hardin-Baylor	FA-12	FA-Ten-08
54 Harvey, Mario	ILB	6-0	264	1	Marshall	FA-12	FA-Pit-11
55 Hickman, Justin	OLB	6-2	258	1	UCLA	FA-12	FA-Was-07
30 Landry, LaRon	S	6-0	220	6	LSU	FA-NYJ-13	D1-Was-07
56 Lutrus, Scott	ILB	6-3	247	1	Connecticut	FA-11	FA-Ind-11
98 Mathis, Robert	OLB	6-2	245	10	Alabama A&M	D5-03	D5-Ind-03
44 McNary, Josh	LB	6-0	251	1	Army	FA-13	FA-Ind-13
59 Sheppard, Kelvin	LB	6-2	244	2	LSU	T-Buf-13	D3-Buf-11
52 Sidbury, Lawrence	OLB	6-3	261	4	Richmond	FA-Atl-13	D4-Atl-09
57 Simmons, Monte	LB	6-3	226	1	Kent State	FA-12	FA-SF-11
93 Walden, Erik	OLB	6-2	250	5	Middle Tennessee	FA-GB-13	D6-Dal-08

DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
41 Bethea, Antoine	S	5-11	196	7	Howard	D6-06	D6-Ind-06
38 Brown, Sergio	S	6-2	210	3	Notre Dame	W-NE-12	FA-NE-10
20 Butler, Darius	CB	5-10	185	4	Connecticut	FA-12	D2-NE-09
23 Davis, Vontae	CB	5-11	205	4	Illinois	T-Mia-12	D1-Mia-09
27 Gordy, Josh	CB	5-11	195	2	Central Michigan	T-StL-12	FA-Jac-10
30 Green, Marshay	CB	5-10	175	2	Ole Miss	FA-12	FA-Ari-10
26 Howell, Delano	S	5-11	201	1	Stanford	FA-12	FA-Buf-12
30 Landry, LaRon	S	6-0	220	6	LSU	FA-NYJ-13	D1-Was-06
35 Lefeged, Joe	S	6-0	205	2	Rutgers	FA-11	FA-Ind-11
28 Toler, Greg	CB	6-0	192	4	Saint Paul's (VA)	FA-Ari-13	D4-Ari-09
32 Vaughn, Cassius	CB	5-11	195	3	Ole Miss	T-Den-12	FA-Den-10
21 Williams, Teddy	CB	6-1	201	1	UTSA	FA-12	FA-Dal-10

SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
1 McAfee, Pat	P	6-1	220	4	West Virginia	D7-09	D7-Ind-09
45 Overton, Matt	LS	6-1	254	1	Western Wash.	FA-12	FA-Sea-07
4 Vinatieri, Adam	K	6-0	206	17	South Dakota St.	FA-NE-06	FA-NE-96

AP Photo/Paul Sancya

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	87	Reggie Wayne
	10	Nathan Palmer
WR	81	Darrius Heyward-Bey
	13	T.Y. Hilton
LT	74	Anthony Castonzo
	60	Bradley Sowell
LG	66	Donald Thomas
	76	Joe Reitz
C	64	Samson Satele
		Khaled Holmes (R)
RG	75	Mike McGlynn
		Hugh Thornton (R)
RT	78	Gosder Cherilus
	72	Jeff Linkenbach
TE	83	Dwayne Allen
	85	Weslye Saunders
TE	80	Coby Fleener
		Justice Cunningham (R)
QB	12	Andrew Luck
	8	Matt Hasselbeck
RB	33	Vick Ballard
	31	Donald Brown

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	90	Cory Redding
	91	Ricardo Mathews
NT	97	Aubrayo Franklin
	96	Brandon McKinney
DT	99	Ricky Jean Francois
	95	Fili Moala
OLB	98	Robert Mathis
	55	Justin Hickman
ILB	51	Pat Angerer
	53	Kavell Conner
ILB	50	Jerrell Freeman
	59	Kelvin Sheppard
OLB	93	Erik Walden
		Bjoern Werner (R)
CB	23	Vontae Davis
	20	Darius Butler
CB	28	Greg Toler
	32	Cassius Vaughn
SS	30	LaRon Landry
	35	Joe Lefeged
FS	41	Antoine Bethea
		John Boyett (R)

SPECIALISTS

K	4	Adam Vinatieri
P	1	Pat McAfee

KR		Kerwynn Williams (R)
PR	13	T.Y. Hilton

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
Dwayne Allen, TE

DEEP-SLEEPER
Kerwynn Williams, RB

OVERVALUED
Donald Brown, RB

TOP ROOKIE
Bjoern Werner, DE

BOUNCE-BACK
Pat Angerer, LB

TOP IDP
LaRon Landry, S

For more Fantasy, visit **AthlonSports.com/fantasy** or follow **@AthlonSports** on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 8	Oakland	1:00	4-12	344.0 (18)	354.5 (18)	18.1 (26)	27.7 (28)
2	Sept. 15	Miami	1:00	7-9	311.5 (27)	356.8 (21)	18.0 (27)	19.8 (7)
3	Sept. 22	at San Francisco	4:25	11-4-1	361.8 (11)	294.4 (3)	24.8 (11)	17.1 (2)
4	Sept. 29	at Jacksonville	1:00	2-14	299.2 (29)	380.5 (30)	15.9 (30)	27.8 (29)
5	Oct. 6	Seattle	1:00	11-5	350.6 (17)	306.2 (4)	25.8 (9)	15.3 (1)
6	Oct. 14	at San Diego (Mon.)	8:40	7-9	297.2 (31)	326.4 (9)	21.9 (20)	21.9 (16)
7	Oct. 20	Denver	8:30	13-3	397.9 (4)	290.8 (2)	30.1 (2)	18.1 (4)
8		BYE						
9	Nov. 3	at Houston	8:30	12-4	372.1 (7)	323.2 (7)	26.0 (8)	20.7 (9)
10	Nov. 10	St. Louis	1:00	7-8-1	329.0 (23)	342.6 (14)	18.7 (25)	21.8 (14)
11	Nov. 14	at Tennessee (Thu.)	8:25	6-10	313.1 (26)	374.9 (27)	20.6 (23)	29.4 (32)
12	Nov. 24	at Arizona	4:05	5-11	263.1 (32)	337.8 (12)	15.6 (31)	22.3 (17)
13	Dec. 1	Tennessee	1:00	6-10	313.1 (26)	374.9 (27)	20.6 (23)	29.4 (32)
14	Dec. 8	at Cincinnati	1:00	10-6	332.7 (22)	319.7 (6)	24.4 (12)	20.0 (8)
15	Dec. 15	Houston	1:00	12-4	372.1 (7)	323.2 (7)	26.0 (8)	20.7 (9)
16	Dec. 22	at Kansas City	1:00	2-14	319.2 (24)	356.5 (20)	13.2 (32)	26.6 (25)
17	Dec. 29	Jacksonville	1:00	2-14	299.2 (29)	380.5 (30)	15.9 (30)	27.8 (29)

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

AFC SOUTH FORECAST 4

See more cheerleaders by visiting AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER: Shad Khan
PRESIDENT: Mark Lamping
GENERAL MANAGER: David Caldwell
STADIUM: EverBank Stadium (67,246)
SURFACE: FieldTurf
WEBSITE: www.jacksonvillejaguars.com
TICKETS: 904-633-2000
TRAINING CAMP: Florida Blue Health and Wellness Practice Field (Jacksonville, Fla.)

Jaguars owner Shad Khan began the housecleaning 15 hours after the worst season in franchise history concluded with a thud at Tennessee. And fans still think he waited too long to act.

Starting Dec. 31, Khan changed the course of the team he bought from Wayne Weaver less than a year earlier. General manager Gene Smith and coach Mike Mularkey were fired less than two weeks apart, replaced by David Caldwell and Gus Bradley, respectively.

It will be up to Caldwell, the new general manager who was previously Thomas Dimitroff's chief assistant in Atlanta, and Bradley, who was previously Pete Carroll's defensive coordinator in Seattle, to spark a franchise that has struggled not only to win, but also to be interesting.

Out of the playoffs since 2007 and possessing only three winning seasons since 1999, the Jaguars are Team New this year — the longest shot on the preseason board to win the Super Bowl. New management. New head coach. New coordinators. New uniforms. New players. And a new vibe.

But it might not translate into a winning record right away.

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Gus Bradley
RECORD WITH TEAM: 0-0
CAREER RECORD: 0-0
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Jedd Fisch
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Bob Babich

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

OFFENSE If he so chooses, quarterback Blaine Gabbert has excuses around every corner for his 5–19 career record. No stability on the coaching staff. Offensive line under-performance. A bad running game. Playing before he was ready. But nobody says the NFL is fair, which means this is Gabbert's last chance to become the Jaguars' present and future triggerman.

With an unimpressive free agent and draft class, the Jaguars chose to build around Gabbert entering this year instead of tossing him to the sideline. Some of the moves could resuscitate an offense that scored more than 24 points just once last year.

Reasons for optimism: The return to health of running back Maurice Jones-Drew, who missed the last nine games of 2012 with a broken foot, and the expected next step in production for receivers Cecil Shorts and Justin Blackmon.

The Jaguars have switched to a zone-blocking scheme in the running game, partly to take advantage of Jones-Drew's decisive cutback style. It's the same system he ran in at UCLA. If he regains the form that made him the 2011 NFL rushing champion, it should result in a play-action game that will make defenses play honest instead of pressuring the edges and making Gabbert step up into traffic.

Shorts and Blackmon are a formidable duo at receiver — when they're on the field together, which they won't be for the first four games. Shorts is the downfield threat and Blackmon the third down possession weapon. But Blackmon is suspended for the first four weeks for violating the league's substance abuse policy. In his place, newcomer Mohamed Massaquoi likely becomes a starter. A potential X-factor was acquired in the draft — former Michigan quarterback Denard Robinson, who will get work at running back and slot receiver.

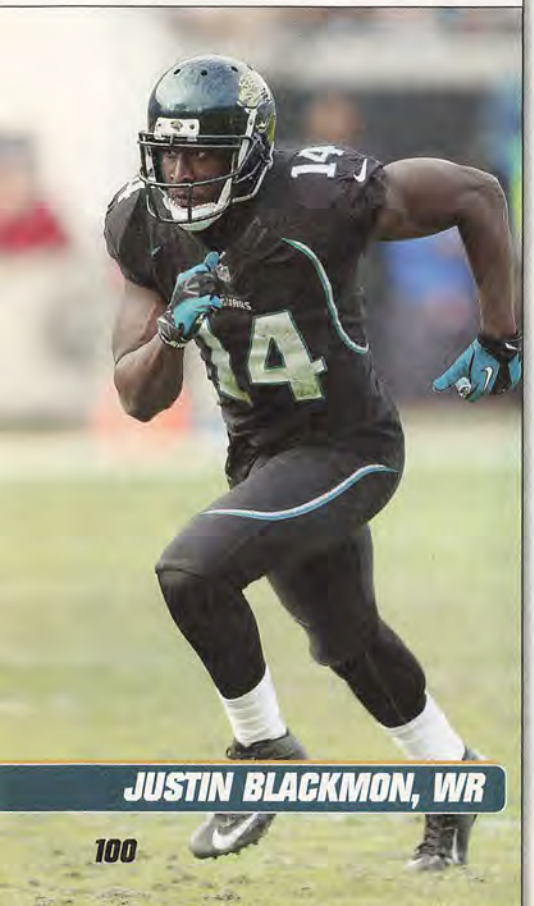
A key will be the Jaguars' offensive line. Last year, the team rolled through five left guards and two right tackles and allowed 50 sacks. Drafted No. 2 overall, Luke Joeckel will move to right tackle, and the Jaguars will get Will Rackley (ankle) back at left guard. If the group can stay healthy, it will give offensive coordinator Jedd Fisch options to keep defenses off balance.

DEFENSE The primary goal for Bradley and new defensive coordinator Bob Babich is to create more pressure on the quarterback and be more stout against the run. The Jaguars' 20 sacks last year were the NFL's fewest, and they were 30th in stopping the rush.

Hallmarks of Bradley's system in Seattle that he hopes to bring to Jacksonville are getting pressure without blitzing, relying on cornerbacks to play press-man coverage, using only one safety in center field and allowing the "Leo" player — a defensive end who lines up on the non-tight end side — to create havoc on the quarterback.

The Jaguars believe they have some of the talent required. Up front, they overhauled the interior, signing Roy Miller and Sen'Derrick Marks to team with Tyson Alualu. At end, Jason Babin and Andre Branch will play the Leo spot in a two-point stance to take advantage of their speed.

Middle linebacker Paul Posluszny and outside backer Russell Allen return and need to be better in coverage. A way to mask that deficiency would be to use Posluszny as a pass-rusher; he showed a knack for creating pressure on delayed blitzes last year. Up for grabs in training camp will be the weak-side linebacker, a three-down player who must be able to play the run and cover. Geno Hayes will enter the summer as the favorite, but there are doubts about his speed.



JUSTIN BLACKMON, WR

Jones-Drew: Andy Lyons/Getty Images; Blackmon: AP Photo/Paul Spinelli; Cheer: Sam Greenwood/Getty Images

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Gauging MoJo Last year was a washout for Maurice Jones-Drew. He held out of training camp and then sustained a season-ending broken foot in Week 7. Now he is entering the final year of his contract, and the relationship will be an interesting thing to monitor. If MJD is productive, does the team want him back? If he thinks the team is headed in the right direction, does he want to return?

Road warriors, part 1 After opening the season at home against Kansas City, the Jaguars will play back-to-back games on the West Coast for the first time in franchise history, facing Oakland and Seattle. Coach Gus Bradley says the team will stay out West between games to build team camaraderie.

Road warriors, part 2 One of owner Shad Khan's goals with the Jaguars is to expand their brand. To that end, he agreed to play one home game at London's Wembley Stadium in each of the next four years. This year's game is against the defending NFC champion San Francisco 49ers. The Jaguars will spend the week in London and hope their marketing efforts there give them a home-crowd advantage.

Blackmon's troubles Receiver Justin Blackmon was arrested for aggravated DUI in Oklahoma before he had played an NFL game. His troubles continued after his rookie year. In late April, he was suspended for the first four regular-season games. Blackmon, the fifth overall pick in 2012, is one strike away from getting suspended for an entire year.

Back for more Center Brad Meester had two choices — re-sign with the Jaguars or retire to his farm in Iowa. But with a sixth daughter on the way and good football left in him, he will return for a 14th season with the franchise that drafted him. How long has Meester been in Jacksonville? He was drafted by Tom Coughlin and blocked for Mark Brunell. Meester will again stabilize the offensive line.

Sparking the rush The Jaguars' 20 sacks last year were the NFL's fewest, and new GM Dave Caldwell didn't draft a defensive end. That puts the onus on the holdover group in general and two players in particular — Jason Babin and Andre Branch. Babin was claimed off waivers from Philadelphia in December and had 1.5 sacks in five games. Branch, the 2012 second-round pick, struggled as a rookie. Under Bradley, Branch returns to a stand-up pass-rusher role that should take advantage of his speed.

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
CB	Alan Ball	Houston
RB	Justin Forsett	Houston
LB	Geno Hayes	Chicago
DT	Sen'Derrick Marks	Tennessee
WR	Mohamed Massaquoi	Cleveland
DT	Roy Miller	Tampa Bay
CB	Marcus Trufant	Seattle

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
OL	Eben Britton	Chicago
CB	Derek Cox	San Diego
FB	Greg Jones	Houston
DT	Terrance Knighton	Denver
S	Dawan Landry	N.Y. Jets
DT	C.J. Mosley	Detroit
CB	Aaron Ross	N.Y. Giants

MAURICE JONES-DREW, RB

2012 RESULTS (2–14)

Sept. 9	at Minnesota (ot)	L	23–26
Sept. 16	Houston	L	7–27
Sept. 23	at Indianapolis	W	22–17
Sept. 30	Cincinnati	L	10–27
Oct. 7	Chicago	L	3–41
Oct. 21	at Oakland (ot)	L	23–26
Oct. 28	at Green Bay	L	15–24
Nov. 4	Detroit	L	14–31
Nov. 8	Indianapolis	L	10–27
Nov. 18	at Houston (ot)	L	37–43
Nov. 25	Tennessee	W	24–19
Dec. 2	at Buffalo	L	18–34
Dec. 9	N.Y. Jets	L	10–17
Dec. 16	at Miami	L	3–24
Dec. 23	New England	L	16–23
Dec. 30	at Tennessee	L	20–38

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Chad Henne	308	166	2,084	11	11
Blaine Gabbert	278	162	1,662	9	6

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Maurice Jones-Drew	86	414	4.8	1
Rashad Jennings	101	283	2.8	2
Montell Owens	42	209	5.0	1
Jalen Parmele	40	143	3.6	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Justin Blackmon	64	865	13.5	5
Cecil Shorts	55	979	17.8	7
Marcedes Lewis	52	540	10.4	4
Laurent Robinson	24	252	10.5	0

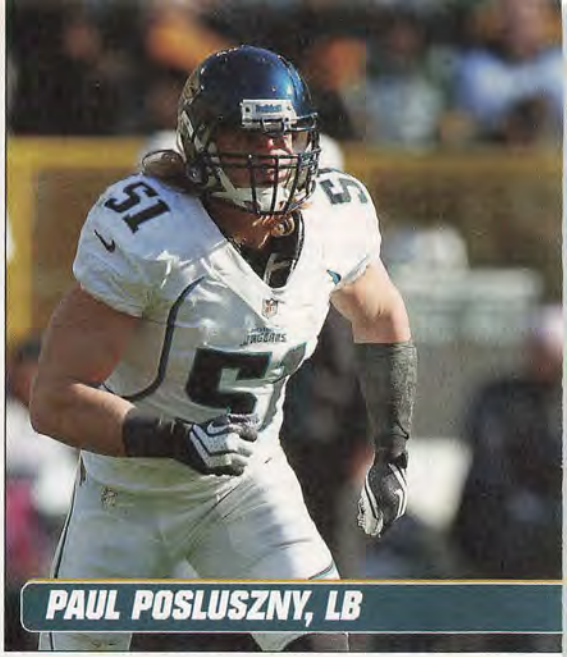
KICKING: Josh Scobee, 25-28 FGs, 18-19 XPs, 93 points
TACKLES: Paul Posluszny, 139; Russell Allen, 131
SACKS: Tyson Alualu, 3.5; C.J. Mosley, 2.5
INTERCEPTIONS: Derek Cox, 4; Paul Posluszny 3
FORCED FUMBLES: Four players tied with 2

2012 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	299.2	29	14
Rushing	85.6	30	16
Passing	213.7	21	10
Scoring	15.9	30	15
Third Down %	29.6	31	16
Punt Returns	7.3	T28	T14
Kick Returns	21.0	T26	16

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	380.5	30	16
Rushing	141.0	30	15
Passing	239.5	22	12
Scoring	27.8	T29	15
Interceptions	12	T20	T9
Sacks	20.0	32	16
Turnover Differential	-3	21	8

The secondary has been revamped. Free safety Dwight Lowery is the only returning starter, and rookies Johnathan Cyprien (strong safety) and Dwayne Gratz (cornerback) are expected to be first-teamers. Cyprien, who will often play close to the line to take advantage of his tackling, could be the enforcer the Jaguars have lacked for years. Seahawks veteran Marcus Trufant signed in May and will play one corner. The common trait among the cornerbacks — Trufant, newcomer Alan Ball, Gratz and projected nickel back Mike Harris — is that they all bring a physical element to coverage.



PAUL POSLUSZNY, LB

SPECIALISTS The Jaguars were horrid in the return game last year, and Caldwell has taken steps to improve it. In free agency, he signed Justin Forsett to be a backup running back but also a kickoff returner. And in the draft, the Jaguars used a fourth-round pick on South Carolina's tiny terror Ace Sanders, who is 5'7" but has the speed and instincts to make things happen on punt returns. He represents an immediate upgrade and potential field-position-flipping player. Robinson will get a shot on kickoff returns even though he didn't perform that role at Michigan.

Placekicker Josh Scobee and punter Bryan Anger both return. Scobee enters his 10th season with the team and is the franchise's all-time leader in points and field goals. Anger was the controversial third-round pick in 2012 of former general manager Gene Smith. But he can produce — he has a strong ability for a young punter to get off kicks that have equal parts hang time and placement to negate the league's top return men.

FINAL ANALYSIS Until they get consistent play from the quarterback position, the Jaguars will be running uphill in the competitive AFC South. If Gabbert can take a huge step forward in his development in his third year, it's conceivable the Jaguars could improve to the six-win level, which would give them momentum entering the offseason. Things could be ugly early, which will test the always-upbeat Bradley. The Jaguars play four of their first six on the road, and one of their first-half "home" games is against San Francisco in London.

NFL DRAFT 2013 JAGUARS IN THE DRAFT

B

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Luke Joeckel	T	6-6	306	Texas A&M
2.	Johnathan Cyprien	S	6-0	217	FIU
3.	Dwayne Gratz	CB	5-11	201	Connecticut
4.	Ace Sanders	WR/PR	5-7	173	South Carolina
5.	Denard Robinson	WR/KR	5-10	199	Michigan
6.	Josh Evans	S	6-1	207	Florida
7.	Jeremy Harris	CB	6-2	184	New Mexico State
7.	Demetrius McCray	CB	6-1	187	Appalachian State

Finding players who have speed was emphasized after Luke Joeckel was taken No. 2 overall with the intent of playing right tackle. The Jaguars did well in terms of finding instant contributors. Johnathan Cyprien is the kind of thumper the secondary hasn't had since Donovin Darius. He and Dwayne Gratz could start in Week 1. And there will be plays devised to get Denard Robinson, a quarterback in college who played running back late in his senior season due to injury, several touches per game. Ace Sanders will handle punt returns and Robinson will get a chance to win the kickoff return job in training camp. Josh Evans could be a third safety, and Jeremy Harris and Demetrius McCray will contribute early on special teams.

Posluszny: AP Photo/Scott Boehm; Joeckel: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
11 Gabbert, Blaine	QB	6-4	235	2	Missouri	D1-11	D1-Jac-11
7 Henne, Chad	QB	6-3	230	5	Michigan	FA-Mia-12	D2b-Mia-08
RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
44 Bolen, Brock	FB	6-0	232	3	Louisville	FA-09	FA-Jac-09
21 Forsett, Justin	RB	5-8	194	5	California	FA-Hou-13	D7-Sea-08
43 Grimes, Jonathan	RB	5-10	207	1	William & Mary	W-Hou-12	FA-Hou-12
32 Jones-Drew, Maurice	RB	5-7	210	7	UCLA	D2-06	D2-Jac-06
39 Murphy, Richard	RB	6-1	215	2	LSU	FA-11	FA-Jac-11
24 Owens, Montell	RB	5-10	225	7	Maine	FA-06	FA-Jac-06
45 Ta'ufo'ou, Will	FB	5-11	247	1	California	FA-12	FA-Chi-09
30 Todman, Jordan	RB	5-10	198	1	Connecticut	PS-Min-12	D6-SD-11
RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
14 Blackmon, Justin	WR	6-1	210	1	Oklahoma State	D1-12	D1-Jac-12
47 Brackett, Brett	TE	6-5	246	1	Penn State	W-Phi-12	FA-Mia-11
12 Brown, Mike	WR	5-10	200	1	Liberty	FA-12	FA-Jac-12
17 Clemons, Toney	WR	6-2	210	1	Colorado	PS-Pit-12	D7-Pit-12
89 Lewis, Marcedes	TE	6-6	272	7	UCLA	D1-06	D1-Jac-06
13 Massaquoi, Mohamed	WR	6-2	207	4	Georgia	FA-Cle-13	D2b-Cle-09
15 Price, Taylor	WR	6-1	195	3	Ohio	W-NE-11	D3-NE-10
16 Shipley, Jordan	WR	6-0	188	3	Texas	FA-12	D3-Cin-10
84 Shorts III, Cecil	WR	6-0	202	2	Mount Union	D4a-11	D4a-Jac-11
86 Stanback, Isaiah	TE	6-2	228	4	Washington	FA-12	D4-Dal-07
85 Veldman, Matt	TE	6-7	255	1	North Dakota State	FA-12	FA-Jac-12
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
72 Asper, Mark	OL	6-6	321	1	Oregon	W-Min-12	D6-Buf-12
78 Bradfield, Cameron	OL	6-4	308	2	Grand Valley State	FA-11	FA-Jac-11
60 Brewster, Mike	G/C	6-4	305	1	Ohio State	FA-12	FA-Jac-12
63 Meester, Brad	C	6-3	292	13	Northern Iowa	D2-00	D2-Jac-00
75 Monroe, Eugene	T	6-5	306	4	Virginia	D1-09	D1-Jac-09
64 Nowak, Drew	G	6-3	300	1	Western Michigan	FA-12	FA-Jac-12
77 Nwaneri, Uche	G	6-3	310	6	Purdue	D5a-07	D5a-Jac-07
67 Pasztor, Austin	OL	6-7	308	1	Virginia	FA-12	FA-Min-12
65 Rackley, Will	G/C	6-3	310	2	Lehigh	D3-11	D3-Jac-11
66 Spitz, Jason	G/C	6-3	298	7	Louisville	FA-GB-11	D3-GB-06
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
93 Alualu, Tyson	DT	6-3	295	3	California	D1-10	D1-Jac-10
58 Babin, Jason	DE	6-3	267	9	Western Michigan	W-Phi-12	D1-Hou-04
90 Branch, Andre	DE	6-5	265	1	Clemson	D2-12	D2-Jac-12
59 Davis, Ryan	DE	6-2	260	1	Bethune-Cookman	FA-12	FA-Jac-12
96 Egboh, Pannel	DE	6-6	277	1	Stanford	FA-13	FA-SF-09
92 Lane, Austen	DE	6-6	265	3	Murray State	D5b-10	D5b-Jac-10
99 Marks, Sen'Derrick	DT	6-2	294	4	Auburn	FA-Ten-13	D2-Ten-09
97 Miller, Roy	DT	6-2	310	4	Texas	FA-TB-13	D3-TB-09
94 Mincey, Jeremy	DL	6-4	265	5	Florida	FA-10	D6-NE-06
98 Pendleton, Jeris	DT	6-2	315	1	Ashland	D7-12	D7-Jac-12
95 Smith, D'Anthony	DT	6-2	300	3	Louisiana Tech	D3-10	D3-Jac-10
LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
50 Allen, Russell	LB	6-3	238	4	San Diego State	FA-09	FA-Jac-09
55 Hayes, Geno	LB	6-1	226	5	Florida State	FA-Chi-13	D6-TB-08
53 Marshall, Brandon	LB	6-1	238	1	Nevada	D5-12	D5-Jac-12
51 Posluszny, Paul	LB	6-2	242	6	Penn State	FA-Buf-11	D2-Buf-07
57 Stanford, Julian	LB	6-1	230	1	Wagner	FA-12	FA-Jac-12
DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
23 Ball, Alan	CB	6-2	197	5	Illinois	FA-Hou-13	D7-Dal-07
33 Banjo, Chris	S	5-10	204	1	SMU	FA-13	FA-Jac-13
38 Blake, Antwon	DB	5-9	198	1	UTEP	FA-12	FA-Jac-12
20 Harris, Mike	CB	5-10	188	1	Florida State	D6-12	D6-Jac-12
25 Lowery, Dwight	DB	5-11	212	5	San Jose State	T-NYJ-11	D4-NYJ-08
42 Prosinski, Chris	S	6-1	208	2	Wyoming	D4b-11	D4b-Jac-11
22 Rutland, Kevin	CB	6-0	193	2	Missouri	FA-12	FA-Jac-11
Trufant, Marcus	CB	5-11	197	10	Washington State	FA-Sea-13	D1-Sea-03
SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
19 Anger, Bryan	P	6-3	202	1	California	D3-12	D3-Jac-12
48 Cain, Jeremy	LS	6-1	245	6	Massachusetts	W-Was-09	FA-Chi-04
10 Scobee, Josh	K	6-1	210	9	Louisiana Tech	D5a-04	D5a-Jac-04

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	84	Cecil Shorts
	16	Jordan Shipley
WR	14	Justin Blackmon
	13	Mohamed Massaquoi
LT	75	Eugene Monroe
	72	Mark Asper
LG	65	Will Rackley
	67	Austin Pasztor
C	63	Brad Meester
	60	Mike Brewster
RG	77	Uche Nwaneri
	66	Jason Spitz
RT	76	Luke Joeckel (R)
	78	Cam Bradfield
TE	89	Marcedes Lewis
	86	Isaiah Stanback
QB	11	Blaine Gabbert
	7	Chad Henne
FB	24	Montell Owens
	45	Will Ta'ufo'ou
RB	32	Maurice Jones-Drew
	21	Justin Forsett

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	58	Jason Babin
	90	Andre Branch
DT	93	Tyson Alualu
	99	Sen'Derrick Marks
DT	97	Roy Miller
	98	Jeris Pendleton
DE	94	Jeremy Mincey
	92	Austen Lane
SLB	50	Russell Allen
	53	Brandon Marshall
MLB	51	Paul Posluszny
	53	Brandon Marshall
WLB	55	Geno Hayes
	57	Julian Stanford
CB	27	Dwayne Gratz (R)
	20	Mike Harris
CB		Marcus Trufant
	23	Alan Ball
SS	37	Johnathan Cyprien (R)
	26	Josh Evans (R)
FS	25	Dwight Lowery
	42	Chris Prosinski

SPECIALISTS

K	10	Josh Scobee
P	19	Bryan Anger
KR	21	Justin Forsett
PR	18	Ace Sanders (R)

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
Justin Forsett, RB

DEEP-SLEEPER
Jordan Shipley, WR

OVERVALUED
Justin Blackmon, WR

TOP ROOKIE
Ace Sanders, WR

BOUNCE-BACK
Maurice Jones-Drew, RB

TOP IDP
Paul Posluszny, LB

For more Fantasy, visit **AthlonSports.com/fantasy** or follow **@AthlonSports** on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 8	Kansas City	1:00	2-14	319.2 (24)	356.5 (20)	13.2 (32)	26.6 (25)
2	Sept. 15	at Oakland	4:25	4-12	344.0 (18)	354.5 (18)	18.1 (26)	27.7 (28)
3	Sept. 22	at Seattle	4:25	11-5	350.6 (17)	306.2 (4)	25.8 (9)	15.3 (1)
4	Sept. 29	Indianapolis	1:00	11-5	362.4 (10)	374.2 (26)	22.3 (18)	24.2 (21)
5	Oct. 6	at St. Louis	1:00	7-8-1	329.0 (23)	342.6 (14)	18.7 (25)	21.8 (14)
6	Oct. 13	at Denver	4:05	13-3	397.9 (4)	290.8 (2)	30.1 (2)	18.1 (4)
7	Oct. 20	San Diego	1:00	7-9	297.2 (31)	326.4 (9)	21.9 (20)	21.9 (16)
8	Oct. 27	San Francisco (London)	1:00	11-4-1	361.8 (11)	294.4 (3)	24.8 (11)	17.1 (2)
9		BYE						
10	Nov. 10	at Tennessee	1:00	6-10	313.1 (26)	374.9 (27)	20.6 (23)	29.4 (32)
11	Nov. 17	Arizona	1:00	5-11	263.1 (32)	337.8 (12)	15.6 (31)	22.3 (17)
12	Nov. 24	at Houston	1:00	12-4	372.1 (7)	323.2 (7)	26.0 (8)	20.7 (9)
13	Dec. 1	at Cleveland	1:00	5-11	314.2 (25)	363.8 (23)	18.9 (24)	23.0 (19)
14	Dec. 5	Houston (Thu.)	8:25	12-4	372.1 (7)	323.2 (7)	26.0 (8)	20.7 (9)
15	Dec. 15	Buffalo	1:00	6-10	342.9 (19)	362.9 (22)	21.5 (21)	27.2 (26)
16	Dec. 22	Tennessee	1:00	6-10	313.1 (26)	374.9 (27)	20.6 (23)	29.4 (32)
17	Dec. 29	at Indianapolis	1:00	11-5	362.4 (10)	374.2 (26)	22.3 (18)	24.2 (21)

TENNESSEE TITANS

See more cheerleaders by visiting AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

The Titans faithful hope the third time is a charm for coach Mike Munchak and quarterback Jake Locker, who are each entering their third season with the franchise following the disastrous breakup of Jeff Fisher and Vince Young.

With iconic owner Bud Adams entering his 90s, Tennessee is in win-now mode but may fall short of having the personnel to win the first Super Bowl in Oilers-Titans history.

Make no mistake, all eyes are on Munchak and Locker, both of whom have given reasons for hope as well as doubt.

Munchak is a Hall of Fame former O-lineman who brings a blue-collar pedigree and attitude. But he has also lost to the then-winless Indianapolis Colts in 2011 and the even-worse Jacksonville Jaguars in 2012 — inexcusable defeats to AFC South Division foes.

Meanwhile, Locker has the type of dual-threat tough-guy swagger Steve McNair would approve of. But his completion percentages over the last six seasons (the first four at the University of Washington) read: 47.3, 53.8, 58.2, 55.4, 51.5 and last year's 56.4.

Unless Munchak and Locker both take the next step, the Titans could be doomed for a Fisher-style 8–8 season.

THE ORGANIZATION

FOUNDER/OWNER/CHAIRMAN/PRESIDENT/CEO: Bud Adams
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/GENERAL MANAGER: Ruston Webster
VP OF PLAYER PERSONNEL: Lake Dawson
STADIUM: LP Field (69,143)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.titansonline.com
TICKETS: 615-565-4200
TRAINING CAMP: Baptist Sports Park (Nashville, Tenn.)

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Mike Munchak
RECORD WITH TEAM: 15-17
CAREER RECORD: 15-17
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Dowell Loggains
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Jerry Gray

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2008	13
2009	8
2010	6
2011	9
2012	6

Playoffs

CHRIS JOHNSON, RB

OFFENSE Chris Johnson has to be the most overlooked of the seven 2,000-yard rushers in NFL history. Rumors of his demise have been greatly exaggerated. CJ is still CJ2K-capable. Last year, he had scoring runs of 80, 83 and 94 yards, the longest TD run in the league since 2006. The key to Johnson's revival is two-time BCS champion and 40-game Alabama starter Chance Warmack, the No. 10 overall pick in this year's draft. "War Daddy" is the type of mauler at guard who can pave the way for Johnson and new change-of-pace power back Shonn Greene.

Former Pro Bowl left tackle Michael Roos and enforcer right tackle David Stewart are entrenched. Guard Andy Levitre has started all 64 games of his career and was the Titans' top free agent target, inking a six-year, $46.8 million deal.

Tennessee's receiving corps is a mixed bag. Talented manchild Kenny Britt is oft-injured and saddled with off-the-field problems. Second-year wideout Kendall Wright has chemistry with Locker. Nate Washington was in offseason trade rumors, while rookie Justin Hunter has upside. Newly acquired tight end Delanie Walker likely will line up all over the field, bringing a physical style and run-blocking dimension the team lacked with Jared Cook, who is now in St. Louis.

DEFENSE Coordinator Jerry Gray and free safety Michael Griffin were both Texas Longhorn defensive backs. And both are on the hot seat this season after the Titans' historically bad defensive performance last year, when the stop-unit allowed over 30 points eight times, including 51 to the Chicago Bears and 55 to the Green Bay Packers.

Former Baltimore Raven and infamous Tom Brady pest Bernard Pollard brings a nasty demeanor and in-the-box mindset to strong safety, freeing Griffin to ball-hawk in center field. Depth could be an issue at cornerback, where Jason McCourty and Alterraun Verner have run hot and cold during their young careers. Verner could see more time at nickel back if rookie Blidi Wreh-Wilson steps up early on the outside.

Speed is paramount at linebacker, where Akeem Ayers, Zach Brown, rookie Zaviar Gooden and man in the middle Colin McCarthy fly sideline to sideline. McCarthy was the Titans' best defender last preseason before injuries limited him to just seven games. Brown showed promise as a rookie, with 93 tackles, 5.5 sacks and three interceptions for 156 yards and two TDs.

The pass rush is a question mark, with Derrick Morgan — who was infamously drafted one spot behind Giants star Jason Pierre-Paul — having failed to provide the type of splash plays (10.5 career sacks over three seasons) expected from a first-round edge rusher. Veterans Kamerion Wimbley and Ropati Pitoitua and rookie Lavar Edwards are hard-nosed defenders who provide scheme versatility. A late push to sign a pass-rush specialist like John Abraham or Dwight Freeney could make all the difference in a division that features Indy's Andrew Luck and Houston's Matt Schaub, and a schedule that includes games against Peyton Manning, Ben Roethlisberger, Russell Wilson and Colin Kaepernick.

Jurrell Casey has shown flashes as a star in the making at tackle, while Mike Martin and Karl Klug are underrated overachievers inside.

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Year XV This will be the 15th anniversary of the Tennessee Titans' inaugural season in 1999 — when the team made the Music City Miracle run to Super Bowl XXXIV, falling one-yard short against the St. Louis Rams. Although Bud Adams founded the Houston Oilers as an original AFL franchise in 1960 and the club move to the Volunteer State as the Tennessee Oilers in 1997 — first in Memphis and then playing at Vanderbilt's stadium in Nashville — the current incarnation of the Titans playing under this name in its own stadium is only 15 years old.

Dept. of the Interior Rookies Chance Warmack and Brian Schwenke both said that if they could have picked a team to be drafted by, it would have been the Titans. The right guard and center worked out in Los Angeles together in preparation for the NFL Scouting Combine. Now the fast friends will be playing for a pair of Hall of Famers in coach Mike Munchak (Class of 2001) and O-line coach Bruce Matthews (Class of 2007).

Twitter follower Chris Johnson's Twitter account, @ChrisJohnson28, is not always the easiest to follow, but there was no doubt about what the former Pro Bowl running back thought of the Titans' first-round selection of Alabama guard Chance Warmack. "THANK GOD," tweeted Johnson after the pick.

Hall of Famer Defensive coordinator Jerry Gray was elected to the College Football Hall of Fame over the summer. The Texas Longhorn played defensive back in Austin from 1981-84. A two-time All-American and Southwest Conference Defensive Player of the Year in 1983 and '84, Gray finished his career with 16 interceptions, including seven in '84.

Proud papa The Titans may have spent their first-rounder on an O-lineman in this year's draft, but there is another blocker the coaching staff will be scouting especially close this season. O-line coach Bruce Matthews' son, Jake, is a preseason All-America left tackle at Texas A&M and considered a likely first-round pick in the 2014 NFL Draft. Jake is the cousin of Packers linebacker Clay Matthews.

Bayonne bad boy Another offseason resulted in another run-in with the law for Kenny Britt. The New Jersey native initially refused to speak with police after a friend was a victim of a stabbing. Britt, who was not a suspect, took his friend to the hospital but left before speaking to authorities. Britt needs to stay healthy and out of trouble in a contract year, but it may be too late. The Titans have spent top-34 picks on receivers in each of the past two drafts.

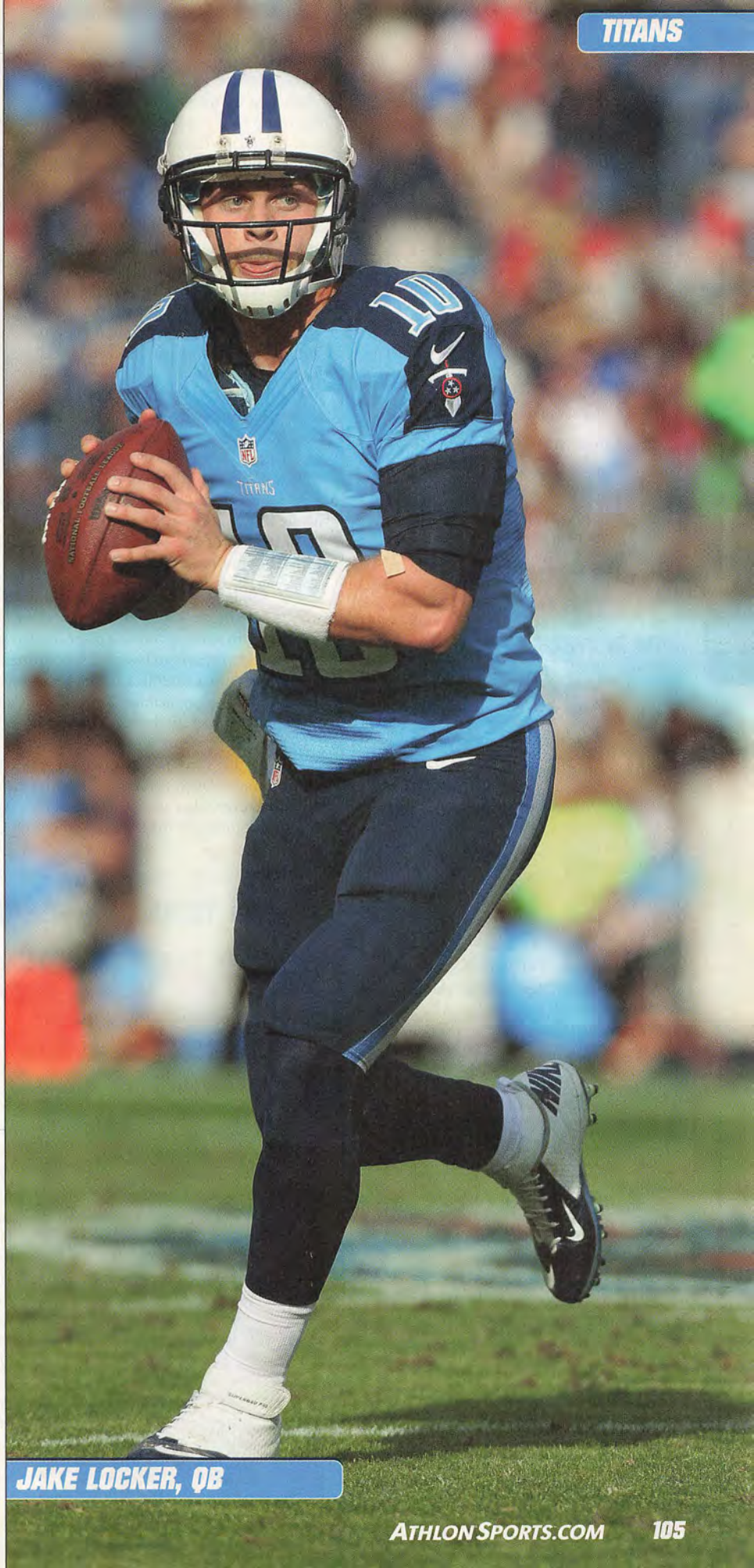
PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
QB	Ryan Fitzpatrick	Buffalo
RB	Shonn Greene	N.Y. Jets
DT	Sammie Lee Hill	Detroit
G	Andy Levitre	Buffalo
DT	Ropati Pitoitua	Kansas City
SS	Bernard Pollard	Baltimore
G	Chris Spencer	Chicago
TE	Delanie Walker	San Francisco

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
SS	Jordan Babineaux	Free Agent
TE	Jared Cook	St. Louis
QB	Matt Hasselbeck	Indianapolis
DT	Sen'Derrick Marks	Jacksonville



JAKE LOCKER, QB

2012 RESULTS (6–10)

Sept. 9	New England	L	13–34
Sept. 16	at San Diego	L	10–38
Sept. 23	Detroit (ot)	W	44–41
Sept. 30	at Houston	L	14–38
Oct. 7	at Minnesota	L	7–30
Oct. 11	Pittsburgh	W	26–23
Oct. 21	at Buffalo	W	35–34
Oct. 28	Indianapolis (ot)	L	13–19
Nov. 4	Chicago	L	20–51
Nov. 11	at Miami	W	37–3
Nov. 25	at Jacksonville	L	19–24
Dec. 2	Houston	L	10–24
Dec. 9	at Indianapolis	L	23–27
Dec. 17	N.Y. Jets	W	14–10
Dec. 23	at Green Bay	L	7–55
Dec. 30	Jacksonville	W	38–20

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Jake Locker	314	177	2,176	10	11
Matt Hasselbeck	221	138	1,367	7	5

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Chris Johnson	276	1,243	4.5	6
Jake Locker	41	291	7.1	1
Jamie Harper	19	30	1.6	3

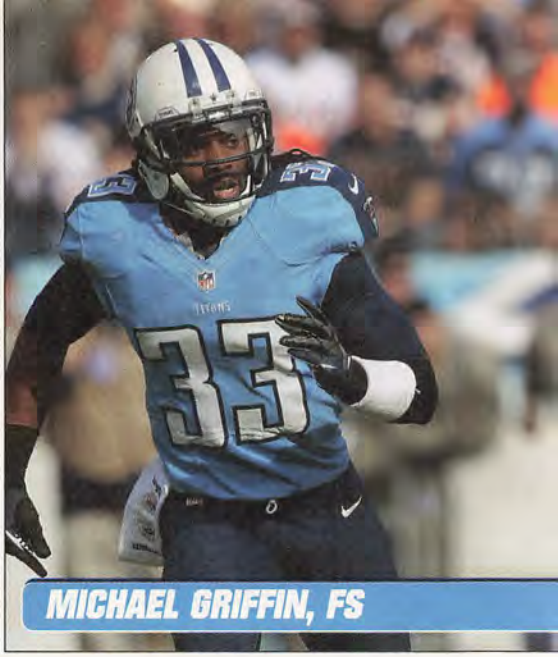
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Kendall Wright	64	626	9.8	4
Nate Washington	46	746	16.2	4
Kenny Britt	45	589	13.1	4
Jared Cook	44	523	11.9	4
Chris Johnson	36	232	6.4	0

KICKING: Rob Bironas, 25-31 FGs, 35-35 XPs, 110 points
TACKLES: Akeem Ayers, 104; Jordan Babineaux, 96
SACKS: Derrick Morgan, 6.5; Akeem Ayers, 6
INTERCEPTIONS: Michael Griffin, 4; Jason McCourty, 4
FORCED FUMBLES: Jurrell Casey, 2

2012 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	313.1	26	12
Rushing	105.4	21	10
Passing	207.7	22	11
Scoring	20.6	23	10
Third Down %	38.2	14	6
Punt Returns	15.3	2	2
Kick Returns	21.7	23	8

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	374.9	27	15
Rushing	127.2	24	11
Passing	247.8	26	14
Scoring	29.4	32	16
Interceptions	19	7	2
Sacks	39.0	T9	5
Turnover Differential	-4	22	9



SPECIALISTS Kicker Rob Bironas is one of the best in the business, and the Titans locked up the former All-Pro with a two-year contract extension this offseason despite coming off his worst statistical season (25-of-31 field goals) since 2006. Bironas was only 6-of-12 from 40-plus yards in 2012, after connecting on 40-of-46 from outside of 40 yards from 2009-11. For a team that has historically played a ground-and-pound, low-scoring style, Bironas' ability to make long field goals is essential.

Brett Kern averaged 47.6 yards per punt but suffered the first two blocked kicks of his career last year.

The return game has multiple candidates in former Pro Bowler Marc Mariani, who suffered a broken left leg last preseason, and Darius Reynaud, who was named AFC Special Teams Player of the Month in September — after executing a perfect Music City Miracle-style home run throwback. Reynaud finished the season with 1,240 kick return yards and a 105-yard TD, along with 410 punt return yards and two TDs.

FINAL ANALYSIS The offense should once again revolve around Johnson, with Greene — who is a two-time 1,000-yard rusher in his own right — providing another option on the ground. With a strong running game, beefed-up offensive line and variety of pass-catching options, Locker appears to have the supporting cast necessary to succeed. Should he stumble or get hurt, backup quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick could follow in the Tennessee tradition of proven second-fiddles — remember Kerry Collins and Neil O'Donnell? — who make the most of their opportunities on the big stage in Music City.

Defensively, there are many more concerns. The pass rush is weak, the secondary is thin and the linebacking corps is inexperienced. The schedule opens at Pittsburgh, then includes seven games against playoff teams from last season.

But if Locker takes another stride in his development and Munchak avoids his annual ugly loss, the Titans could make a run at the Wild Card playoff berth the Colts claimed last season.

NFL DRAFT 2013 TITANS IN THE DRAFT

B

RD PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1. Chance Warmack	G	6-2	317	Alabama
2. Justin Hunter	WR	6-4	196	Tennessee
3. Blidi Wreh-Wilson	CB	6-1	195	Connecticut
3. Zaviar Gooden	LB	6-2	230	Missouri
4. Brian Schwenke	C	6-3	314	California
5. Lavar Edwards	DE	6-4	277	LSU
6. Khalid Wooten	CB	5-11	210	Nevada
7. Daimion Stafford	S	6-0	205	Nebraska

The Titans attacked the interior of their O-line with Alabama right guard Chance Warmack and California center Brian Schwenke, two players who should see the field early and often. GM Ruston Webster pushed his chips on the table at the start of Day 2, trading a 2014 third-round pick to move up six spots to No. 34 overall to select University of Tennessee size-speed receiver combo Justin Hunter. The secondary was addressed with cornerbacks Blidi Wreh-Wilson and Khalid Wooten and safety Daimion Stafford. Outside linebacker Zaviar Gooden has blazing speed (4.47 in the 40) and should be a weapon covering tight ends. Defensive end Lavar Edwards has a non-stop motor.

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
7 Enderle, Nathan	QB	6-4	240	1	Idaho	FA-13	D5-Chi-11
4 Fitzpatrick, Ryan	QB	6-2	225	8	Harvard	FA-Buf-13	D7-StL-05
10 Locker, Jake	QB	6-3	234	2	Washington	D1-11	D1-Ten-11
11 Smith, Rusty	QB	6-5	226	3	Florida Atlantic	D6a-10	D6a-Ten-10

RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
22 Greene, Shonn	RB	5-11	226	4	Iowa	FA-NYJ-13	D3-NYJ-09
28 Johnson, Chris	RB	5-11	191	5	East Carolina	D1-08	D1-Ten-08
45 Johnson, Quinn	FB	6-1	263	4	LSU	T-GB-11	D5-GB-09
42 Mooney, Collin	FB	5-10	247	1	Army	FA-12	FA-Ten-12
Parmele, Jalen	RB	5-11	225	3	Toledo	FA-Jac-13	D6-Mia-08
25 Reynaud, Darius	RB	5-9	201	4	West Virginia	FA-12	FA-Min-08

RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
81 Barden, Brandon	TE	6-4	251	1	Vanderbilt	FA-12	FA-Ten-12
19 Borel, Diondre	WR	6-0	199	1	Utah State	FA-12	FA-GB-11
18 Britt, Kenny	WR	6-3	215	4	Rutgers	D1-09	D1-Ten-09
83 Mariani, Marc	WR	6-1	190	3	Montana	D7a-10	D7a-Ten-10
14 Preston, Michael	WR	6-5	206	1	Heidelberg	FA-11	FA-Ten-11
88 Stevens, Craig	TE	6-3	268	5	California	D3-08	D3-Ten-08
84 Thompson, Taylor	TE	6-6	268	1	SMU	D5-12	D5-Ten-12
85 Washington, Nate	WR	6-1	177	8	Tiffin	FA-Pit-09	FA-Pit-05
82 Walker, Delanie	TE	6-0	242	7	Central Missouri	FA-SF-13	D6a-SF-06
16 Wallace, Roberto	WR	6-4	222	2	San Diego State	FA-13	FA-Mia-10
87 Walter, Kevin	WR	6-3	218	10	Eastern Michigan	FA-Hou-13	D7-NYG-03
80 Webb, Martell	TE	6-3	276	1	Michigan	FA-12	FA-Phi-11
17 Williams, Damian	WR	6-1	199	3	USC	D3a-10	D3a-Ten-10
13 Wright, Kendall	WR	5-10	196	1	Baylor	D1-12	D1-Ten-12

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
54 Amano, Eugene	G/C	6-3	300	9	SE Missouri State	D7-04	D7-Ten-04
70 Baldridge, Daniel	T	6-8	308	1	Marshall	FA-12	FA-Jac-10
67 Levitre, Andy	G	6-2	305	4	Oregon State	FA-Buf-13	D2b-Buf-09
66 Otto, Mike	T	6-5	310	5	Purdue	D7-07	D7-Ten-07
71 Roos, Michael	T	6-7	320	8	Eastern Washington	D2-05	D2-Ten-05
60 Spencer, Chris	G/C	6-3	309	8	Ole Miss	FA-Chi-13	D1-Sea-05
76 Stewart, David	T	6-7	315	8	Mississippi State	D4b-05	D4b-Ten-05
68 Stingily, Byron	T	6-5	313	2	Louisville	D6-11	D6-Ten-11
64 Studdard, Kasey	G	6-3	304	5	Texas	FA-13	D6-Hou-07
58 Turner, Rob	C	6-4	308	4	New Mexico	FA-StL-13	FA-NYJ-07
61 Velasco, Fernando	C/G	6-4	312	3	Georgia	FA-08	FA-Ten-08

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
99 Casey, Jurrell	DT	6-1	300	2	USC	D3-11	D3-Ten-11
69 Clayton, Zach	DT	6-2	299	2	Auburn	D7a-11	D7a-Ten-11
75 Dawson, Keyunta	DE	6-3	265	5	Texas Tech	FA-12	D7-Ind-07
77 Gibson, Thaddeus	DE	6-2	243	2	Ohio State	FA-12	D4-Pit-10
96 Harris, DaJohn	DT	6-3	306	1	USC	FA-12	FA-Ten-12
94 Hill, Sammie	DT	6-4	329	4	Stillman	FA-Det-13	D4-Det-09
Johnson, Antonio	DT	6-3	310	6	Mississippi State	FA-Ind-13	D5-Ten-07
97 Klug, Karl	DT	6-3	275	2	Iowa	D5-11	D5-Ten-11
93 Martin, Mike	DT	6-1	306	1	Michigan	D3-12	D3-Ten-12
91 Morgan, Derrick	DE	6-3	278	3	Georgia Tech	D1-10	D1-Ten-10
92 Pitoitua, Ropati	DE	6-8	315	4	Washington State	FA-KC-13	FA-NYJ-08
90 Solomon, Scott	DE	6-3	262	1	Rice	D7-12	D7-Ten-12
95 Wimbley, Kamerion	DE	6-4	255	7	Florida State	FA-Oak-12	D1-Cle-06

LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
56 Ayers, Akeem	LB	6-3	254	2	UCLA	D2-11	D2-Ten-11
57 Bailey, Patrick	LB	6-4	235	5	Duke	W-Pit-10	FA-Pit-08
55 Brown, Zach	LB	6-1	242	1	North Carolina	D2-12	D2-Ten-12
53 Fokou, Moise	LB	6-1	236	4	Maryland	FA-Ind-13	D7-Phi-09
52 McCarthy, Colin	LB	6-1	238	2	Miami	D4a-11	D4a-Ten-11
59 Shaw, Tim	LB	6-1	236	5	Penn State	W-Chi-10	D5-Car-07

DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
38 Afalava, Al	S	5-11	212	3	Oregon State	FA-12	D6-Chi-09
37 Campbell, Tommie	CB	6-3	205	2	California (PA)	D7b-11	D7b-Ten-11
33 Griffin, Michael	S	6-0	203	6	Texas	D1-07	D1-Ten-07
32 Johnson, Robert	S	6-2	206	2	Utah	D5-10	D5-Ten-10
26 Martin, Markelle	S	6-0	207	1	Oklahoma State	D6-12	D6-Ten-12
30 McCourty, Jason	CB	6-0	188	4	Rutgers	D6a-09	D6a-Ten-09
31 Pollard, Bernard	S	6-1	225	7	Purdue	FA-Bal-13	D2-KC-06
24 Sensabaugh, Coty	CB	5-11	189	1	Clemson	D4-12	D4-Ten-12
20 Verner, Alterraun	CB	5-10	187	3	UCLA	D4-10	D4-Ten-10
21 Wilson, George	SS	6-0	214	7	Arkansas	FA-Buf-13	FA-Det-04
35 Wilson, Tracy	S	6-2	203	1	Northern Illinois	FA-12	FA-NYJ-11

SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
2 Bironas, Rob	K	6-0	210	8	Auburn	FA-05	FA-GB-02
48 Brinkley, Beau	LS	6-4	237	1	Missouri	FA-12	FA-Ten-12
6 Kern, Brett	P	6-2	217	5	Toledo	W-Den-09	FA-Den-08

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	18	Kenny Britt
	15	Justin Hunter (R)
WR	13	Kendall Wright
	85	Nate Washington
LT	71	Michael Roos
	66	Mike Otto
LG	67	Andy Levitre
	60	Chris Spencer
C	61	Fernando Velasco
	62	Brian Schwenke (R)
RG	70	Chance Warmack (R)
	54	Eugene Amano
RT	76	David Stewart
	68	Byron Stingily
TE	82	Delanie Walker
	88	Craig Stevens
QB	10	Jake Locker
	4	Ryan Fitzpatrick
FB	45	Quinn Johnson
RB	28	Chris Johnson
	22	Shonn Greene

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	91	Derrick Morgan
	98	Lavar Edwards (R)
DT	99	Jurrell Casey
	92	Ropati Pitoitua
DT	97	Karl Klug
	93	Mike Martin
DE	95	Kamerion Wimbley
	75	Keyunta Dawson
OLB	56	Akeem Ayers
	57	Patrick Bailey
MLB	52	Colin McCarthy
	53	Moise Fokou
OLB	55	Zach Brown
	50	Zaviar Gooden (R)
CB	30	Jason McCourty
	37	Tommie Campbell
CB	20	Alterraun Verner
	29	Blidi Wreh-Wilson (R)
SS	31	Bernard Pollard
	35	Tracy Wilson
FS	33	Michael Griffin
	32	Robert Johnson

SPECIALISTS

K	2	Rob Bironas
P	6	Brett Kern
KR	25	Darius Reynaud
PR	83	Marc Mariani

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
Shonn Greene, RB

DEEP-SLEEPER
Delanie Walker, TE

OVERVALUED
Bernard Pollard, S

TOP ROOKIE
Justin Hunter, WR

BOUNCE-BACK
Kenny Britt, WR

TOP IDP
Zach Brown, LB

For more Fantasy, visit **AthlonSports.com/fantasy** or follow **@AthlonSports** on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 8	at Pittsburgh	1:00	8-8	332.7 (21)	275.8 (1)	21.0 (22)	19.6 (6)
2	Sept. 15	at Houston	1:00	12-4	372.1 (7)	323.2 (7)	26.0 (8)	20.7 (9)
3	Sept. 22	San Diego	1:00	7-9	297.2 (31)	326.4 (9)	21.9 (20)	21.9 (16)
4	Sept. 29	N.Y. Jets	4:05	6-10	299.2 (30)	323.4 (8)	17.6 (28)	23.4 (20)
5	Oct. 6	Kansas City	1:00	2-14	319.2 (24)	356.5 (20)	13.2 (32)	26.6 (25)
6	Oct. 13	at Seattle	4:05	11-5	350.6 (17)	306.2 (4)	25.8 (9)	15.3 (1)
7	Oct. 20	San Francisco	4:05	11-4	361.8 (11)	294.4 (3)	24.8 (11)	17.1 (2)
8		BYE						
9	Nov. 3	at St. Louis	1:00	7-8	329.0 (23)	342.6 (14)	18.7 (25)	21.8 (14)
10	Nov. 10	Jacksonville	1:00	2-14	299.2 (29)	380.5 (30)	15.9 (30)	27.8 (29)
11	Nov. 14	Indianapolis (Thu.)	8:25	11-5	362.4 (10)	374.2 (26)	22.3 (18)	24.2 (21)
12	Nov. 24	at Oakland	4:05	4-12	344.0 (18)	354.5 (18)	18.1 (26)	27.7 (28)
13	Dec. 1	at Indianapolis	1:00	11-5	362.4 (10)	374.2 (26)	22.3 (18)	24.2 (21)
14	Dec. 8	at Denver	4:05	13-3	397.9 (4)	290.8 (2)	30.1 (2)	18.1 (4)
15	Dec. 15	Arizona	1:00	5-11	263.1 (32)	337.8 (12)	15.6 (31)	22.3 (17)
16	Dec. 22	at Jacksonville	1:00	2-14	299.2 (29)	380.5 (30)	15.9 (30)	27.8 (29)
17	Dec. 29	Houston	1:00	12-4	372.1 (7)	323.2 (7)	26.0 (8)	20.7 (T9)

DENVER BRONCOS

AFC WEST FORECAST **1**

See more cheerleaders by visiting AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER/CHAIRMAN/CEO: Pat Bowlen
PRESIDENT: Joe Ellis
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS: John Elway
DIRECTOR OF FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION: Mike Sullivan
STADIUM: Sports Authority Field at Mile High (76,125)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.denverbroncos.com
TICKETS: 720-258-3333
TRAINING CAMP: Paul D. Bowlen Memorial Centre (Dove Valley, Colo.)

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: John Fox
RECORD WITH TEAM: 21-11
CAREER RECORD: 94-82
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Adam Gase
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Jack Del Rio

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

Playoffs

John Elway the front office suit is much like John Elway the quarterback. The man is always in a hurry, always looking for a competitive edge, always trying to pull off the next big play. And so it was that, in the aftermath of the Broncos' shocking 2012 playoff exit, Elway wasted exactly zero time wallowing in the disappointment. Instead, he did something. Sign the top-rated guard in free agency. Check. Provide a parachute for Wes Welker when his relationship with the Patriots' front office was in freefall. Check. Use a second-rounder on a Heisman Trophy finalist running back to keep the pressure off Peyton Manning. Check.

Having taken a proactive path to improve what already loomed as the most talented roster in the AFC, Elway, like everyone else out there, can sum up the Broncos' 2013 season in a hurry: Super Bowl or bust.

OFFENSE Manning called the right audible when he decided to join the Broncos after being shown the door in Indianapolis. He would have been the MVP of the league if not for Adrian Peterson's incredible comeback from knee surgery. And now Manning has even more weapons: The Broncos signed two of the most attractive names in free agency, Welker and former Chargers guard Louis Vasquez, who figures to amp up a running game featuring rookie tailback Montee Ball.

Manning doesn't just make his teammates better; he creates instant stars. Case in point: Receiver Demaryius Thomas, whose career before 2012 had been defined by injuries and unfulfilled potential. Having caught 94 balls for 1,434 yards and 10 touchdowns, Thomas looms as one of the most dangerous deep threats in the league. And when Manning wants to move the chains with short stuff, he can turn to Welker (118 catches with the Pats) or Eric Decker, whose 13 touchdown catches led the team. It's a foursome unmatched on any other roster in the league.

If Welker makes an already potent receiving corps even more dangerous, Ball could do the same for the running game. He has a lot of wear and tear on his body (663 carries in his final two seasons at Wisconsin), but Elway and Co. believe he'll provide an upgrade for the running game. If so, the Broncos can virtually name that score.

And no, the upgrades don't end with the ball-handlers. Vasquez, a 335-pound masher at right guard, was the team's No. 1 target in free agency. His presence gives the Broncos one of the league's premier offensive lines, one that could be better than ever if young right tackle Orlando Franklin continues to make strides as a pass-blocker.

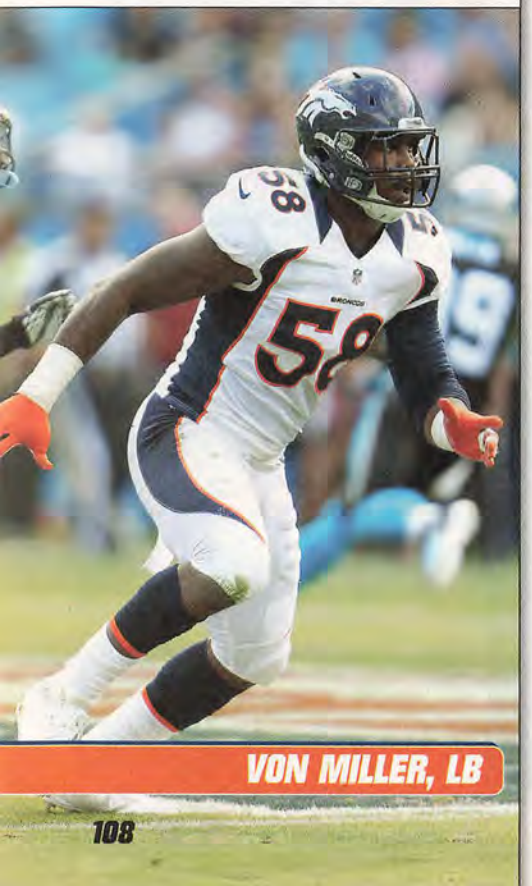
DEFENSE There was a time not so long ago when the Broncos were undersized on the defensive line. No more. Defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio wants big bodies who can clog the middle and create push, opening opportunities for players on the perimeter to make plays.

Derek Wolfe saw playing time in the middle last year as a rookie, but at 300 pounds, he doesn't fit the profile of a Del Rio tackle. Enter free agent Terrance Knighton, a player Del Rio drafted at Jacksonville, and No. 1 draft pick Sylvester Williams. Knighton goes 330, give or take a Big Mac or two, and Williams 313. With so much size in the middle, Wolfe should be a bigger factor in the pass rush at defensive end. Then there's strong-side linebacker Von Miller, arguably the most feared pass-rusher in the league. Miller is a once-in-a-lifetime player who could make a run at the all-time sack record after racking up 18.5 last season.

After losing defensive end Elvis Dumervil in free agency, the Broncos considered Dwight Freeney and John Abraham but signed ex-Chargers defensive end Shaun Phillips, he of the 9.5 sacks in 2012.

The Broncos are solid in the secondary after the signing of Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, who's hungry to re-establish himself after signing a one-year deal, but they need someone to step up and anchor the middle at linebacker, a gaping hole since the days of Al Wilson. Nate Irving, a third-rounder in 2011, will be given every opportunity to win the job. If he struggles, the defense could be hard-pressed to stage an encore from 2012, when the Broncos were one of the stingiest run defenses in the league.

The bottom line? The Broncos lack depth at some positions but have a handful of premier defensive players and a talented coordinator who figures to be a hot commodity on the head-coaching market after the season.



VON MILLER, LB

Manning, Cheer: Peter Brouillet; Miller: AP Photo/Tom DiPace

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Happy Holliday Trindon Holliday is such a blur on the field, it's as if you can't see him. But have no doubt, he makes his presence felt. How much of an impact did the little (5'5", 170 pounds) guy make in 2012? Holliday didn't see the wrong end of the scoreboard until the Broncos' playoff loss to Baltimore. Holliday, who returned two kicks for touchdowns during the season and two more in the playoff game, was released by the Texans after they had won their first five games. Then it was on to Denver, where the Broncos promptly went on an 11-game winning streak with Holliday on the roster.

Elvis has left the Broncos Elvis Dumervil, who led the NFL with 17 sacks in 2009, has no problem finding his way to the quarterback. But apparently he needs a little help finding his local Kinko's outlet. Dumervil was released during the offseason after a contract debacle that has come to be known as Fax-Gate. It all began when John Elway said Dumervil's six-year, $61.5-million contract was "out of whack." In the end, everything else ended up that way, too, leading to Dumervil's signing with the Ravens. The Broncos and Dumervil's former agent, Marty Magid, had agreed to a restructured contract just before a league-mandated deadline, but Dumervil couldn't find a Kinko's in his native Miami to fax in his signature, forcing the Broncos to cut him minutes before his contract would have become guaranteed for the 2013 season. Dumervil, a force off the corner and a major locker-room presence, will be missed.

Workin' on the chain gang Peyton Manning doesn't just make big plays and big money. He moves the chains on third down, grinding out first downs that keep the Broncos' defense off the field. With Tim Tebow under center in 2011, Denver ranked 30th in the league in third down conversions at 30.8 percent. And with Manning running the show? Try 45.1 percent, third in the league. As John Elway said during his playing days, "This league is all about third down."

Decked at Duke Manning spent a few days in April working out at Duke University, where David Cutliffe, Manning's offensive coordinator at the University of Tennessee, is the head coach. The rest of the workout crew included, among others, Broncos receivers Eric Decker, Demaryius Thomas and Wes Welker. To his astonishment, Decker received a bill for $3,200 on official Duke stationery, with charges ranging from $2,500 for "on-field instruction from Duke football coaching staff" to $300 for a "facilities fee" to $100 for "laundry service." Decker took it all in stride, tweeting that he had been had by a "nice little practical joke" by Manning.

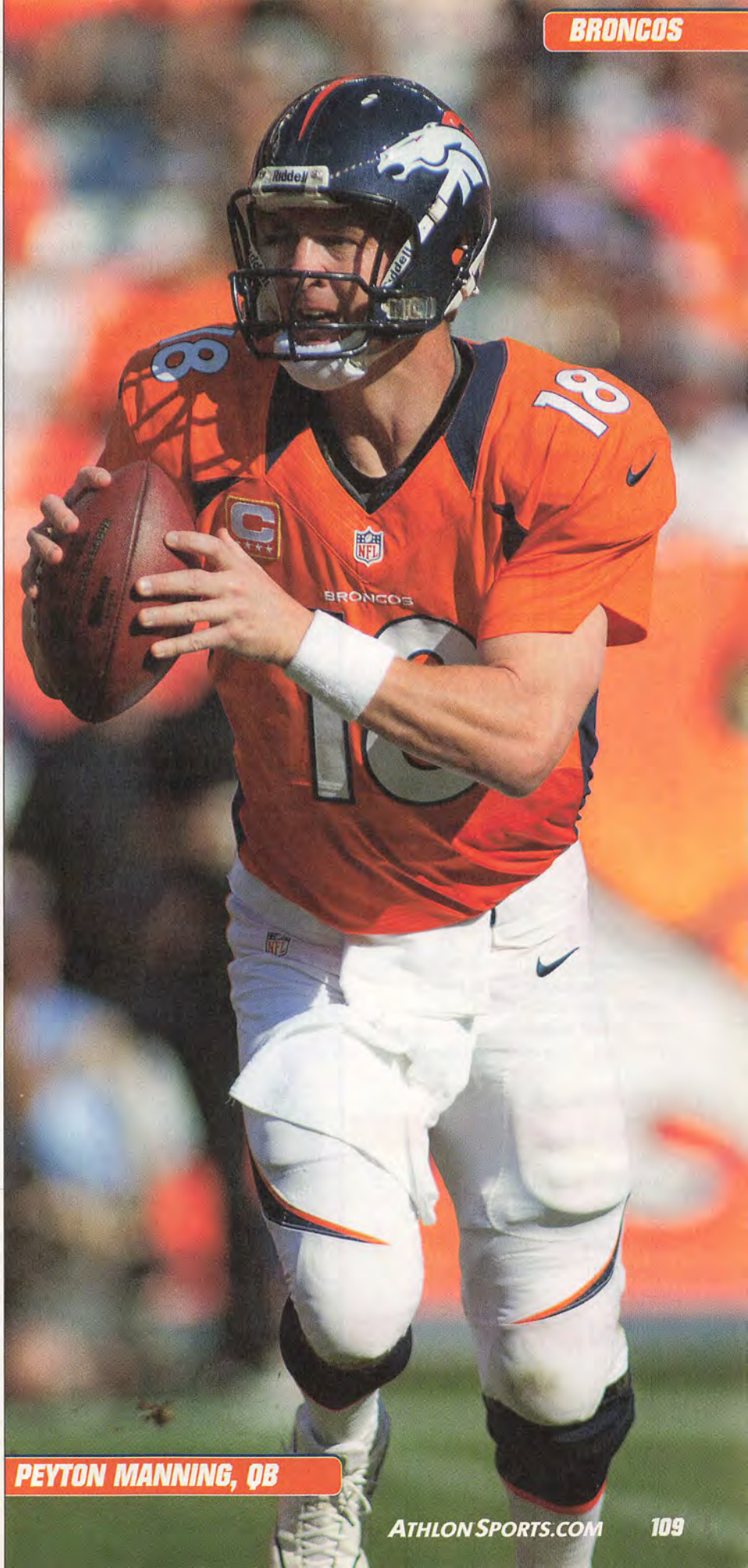
PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
DT	Terrance Knighton	Jacksonville
DE	Shaun Phillips	San Diego
CB	Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie	Philadelphia
G	Louis Vasquez	San Diego
WR	Wes Welker	New England

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
DE	Elvis Dumervil	Baltimore
LB	D.J. Williams	Chicago
C	Dan Koppen	Free Agent
DT	Justin Bannan	Free Agent



PEYTON MANNING, QB

2012 RESULTS (13–3)

Sept. 9	Pittsburgh	W	31–19
Sept. 17	at Atlanta	L	21–27
Sept. 23	Houston	L	25–31
Sept. 30	Oakland	W	37–6
Oct. 7	at New England	L	21–31
Oct. 15	at San Diego	W	35–24
Oct. 28	New Orleans	W	34–14
Nov. 4	at Cincinnati	W	31–23
Nov. 11	at Carolina	W	36–14
Nov. 18	San Diego	W	30–23
Nov. 25	at Kansas City	W	17–9
Dec. 2	Tampa Bay	W	31–23
Dec. 6	at Oakland	W	26–13
Dec. 16	at Baltimore	W	34–17
Dec. 23	Cleveland	W	34–12
Dec. 30	Kansas City	W	38–3
Postseason			
Jan. 12	Baltimore (ot)	L	35–38

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Peyton Manning	583	400	4,659	37	11
Brock Osweiler	4	2	12	0	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Willis McGahee	167	731	4.4	4
Knowshon Moreno	138	525	3.8	4
Ronnie Hillman	85	330	3.9	1

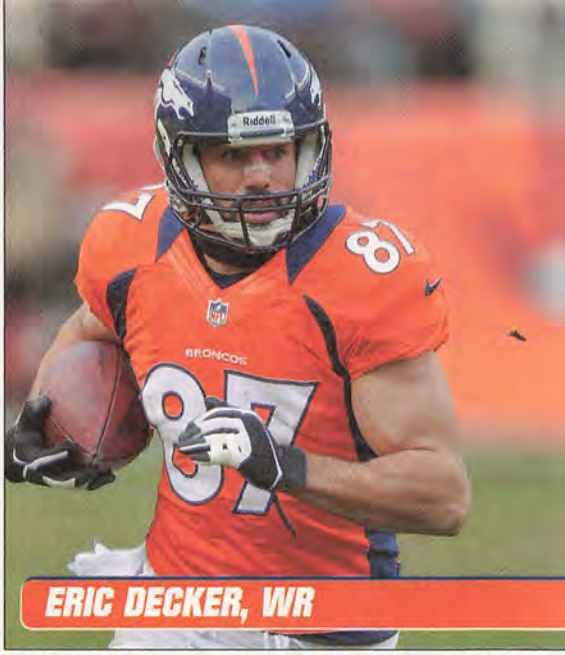
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Demaryius Thomas	94	1,434	15.3	10
Eric Decker	85	1,064	12.5	13
Jacob Tamme	52	555	10.7	2
Brandon Stokley	45	544	12.1	5
Joel Dreessen	41	356	8.7	5

KICKING: Matt Prater, 26-32 FGs, 55-55 XPs, 133 points
TACKLES: Wesley Woodyard, 117; Mike Adams, 80
SACKS: Von Miller, 18.5; Elvis Dumervil, 11.0
INTERCEPTIONS: Wesley Woodyard, 3; Chris Harris, 3
FORCED FUMBLES: Von Miller, 6; Elvis Dumervil, 6

2012 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	397.9	4	2
Rushing	114.5	16	7
Passing	283.4	5	2
Scoring	30.1	2	2
Third Down %	45.1	3	2
Punt Returns	9.3	T17	12
Kick Returns	23.1	18	9

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	290.8	2	2
Rushing	91.1	3	2
Passing	199.6	3	3
Scoring	18.1	4	1
Interceptions	16	13	4
Sacks	52.0	T1	1
Turnover Differential	-1	T17	7



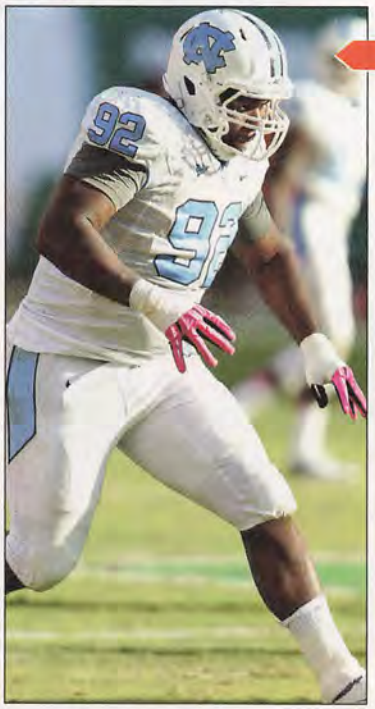
SPECIALISTS If you're the rest of the AFC West, this is just wrong. The Broncos, that is, having not only Manning and a handful of other stars, but also the most electrifying return man in the league. At least Trindon Holliday can stake a claim to the title after his performance in the Broncos' playoff loss to Baltimore when he became the first player in NFL history to record kickoff and punt returns for touchdowns in the same playoff game. His signing with the Broncos during the 2012 season was the move that gave Denver arguably the best special teams in the league.

Kicker Matt Prater is the most accurate kicker in league history from 50 yards-plus. Not bad for a guy who was cut by Detroit, Miami and Atlanta and failed tryouts with Green Bay and Minnesota before finding a home in Colorado. Then there's punter Britton Colquitt, whose net averages for the past three seasons read like this: 36.6, 40.2 and 42.1. Yes, Colquitt, like Prater, benefits from Denver's mile-high air, but he's the real deal.

FINAL ANALYSIS With the clock ticking on the 37-year-old Manning, the Broncos' window for winning a Super Bowl is closing. But frankly, there's no reason to believe they can't win two with No. 18 under center. Remember all that talk about those surgical procedures on Manning's neck? No, you probably don't because any concerns about his physical condition died early last season. And by the time he threw his 37th touchdown pass, any notion of Manning not being his old self was ancient history. If anything, he'll be more comfortable in his skin this season. Not only that, but he also has Welker around to provide a security blanket on third down.

Add in a defense that includes Miller and future Hall of Famer Champ Bailey, and the Broncos are loaded for another Super Bowl run. They should dominate the weak AFC West, putting them in position to have home-field advantage in the playoffs. If it comes down that way, don't count on them botching the opportunity this time around. The Broncos were embarrassed by how last season ended, and had to watch as the Ravens, a team that needed an 11th hour miracle to beat them in the playoffs, went on to win the Super Bowl.

BRONCOS IN THE DRAFT



RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Sylvester Williams	DT	6-3	313	North Carolina
2.	Montee Ball	RB	5-10	217	Wisconsin
3.	Kayvon Webster	CB	5-10	195	South Florida
5.	Quanterus Smith	DE	6-5	250	Western Kentucky
5.	Tavarres King	WR	6-0	189	Georgia
6.	Vinston Painter	T	6-4	306	Virginia Tech
7.	Zac Dysert	QB	6-3	231	Miami (Ohio)

It wasn't merely draft-day hype. The Broncos never expected Sylvester Williams to fall to the No. 28 spot in the first round, and they jumped at the chance to take him. He immediately becomes the Broncos' best interior pass-rusher, piling up 8.5 sacks in an abbreviated career at North Carolina. Kayvon Webster was drafted as a developmental player, with Champ Bailey not getting any younger and Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie playing on a one-year deal. As for Wisconsin running back and Heisman finalist Montee Ball? Let's put it this way: One year after they used a second-round pick on a quarterback (Brock Osweiler) who may not play for four or five years, the Broncos weren't about to use another No. 2 pick on a project. Barring an injury, Ball will step in and start from Day 1.

Decker: Peter Brouillet; Williams: Margaret Bowles

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
18 Manning, Peyton	QB	6-5	230	15	Tennessee	FA-12	D1-Ind-98
6 Osweiler, Brock	QB	6-8	240	1	Arizona State	D2b-12	D2b-Den-12
RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
35 Ball, Lance	RB	5-9	215	4	Maryland	FA-10	FA-StL-08
42 Fannin, Mario	RB	5-11	224	2	Auburn	FA-11	FA-Den-11
40 Hester, Jacob	FB	5-11	235	5	LSU	FA-12	D3-SD-08
21 Hillman, Ronnie	RB	5-10	190	1	San Diego State	D3-12	D3-Den-12
37 Johnson, Jeremiah	RB	5-9	200	3	Oregon	FA-10	FA-Hou-09
23 McGahee, Willis	RB	6-0	235	10	Miami	FA-11	D1-Buf-03
27 Moreno, Knowshon	RB	5-11	200	4	Georgia	D1a-09	D1a-Den-09
RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
17 Caldwell, Andre	WR	6-0	190	5	Florida	FA-Cin-12	D3b-Cin-08
87 Decker, Eric	WR	6-3	218	3	Minnesota	D3b-10	D3b-Den-10
81 Dreessen, Joel	TE	6-4	245	7	Colorado State	FA-Hou-12	D6-NYJ-05
85 Green, Virgil	TE	6-5	252	2	Nevada	D7a-11	D7a-Den-11
11 Holliday, Trindon	WR	5-5	170	3	LSU	FA-12	D6-Hou-10
89 Orton, Greg	WR	6-3	199	1	Purdue	FA-11	FA-Cin-09
84 Tamme, Jacob	TE	6-3	236	5	Kentucky	FA-Ind-12	D4-Ind-08
88 Thomas, Demaryius	WR	6-3	229	3	Georgia Tech	D1a-10	D1a-Den-10
80 Thomas, Julius	TE	6-5	255	2	Portland State	D4b-11	D4b-Den-11
83 Welker, Wes	WR	5-9	185	9	Texas Tech	FA-NE-13	FA-SD-04
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
68 Beadles, Zane	G	6-4	305	3	Utah	D2-10	D2-Den-10
64 Blake, Philip	G/C	6-3	320	1	Baylor	D4b-12	D4b-Den-12
78 Clady, Ryan	T	6-6	315	5	Boise State	D1-08	D1-Den-08
75 Clark, Chris	T	6-5	305	3	Southern Miss	W-Min-10	FA-TB-08
71 Cornick, Paul	T	6-6	310	1	North Dakota State	FA-12	FA-NYJ-12
54 Davis, C.J.	C/G	6-2	308	3	Pittsburgh	FA-12	FA-Car-09
74 Franklin, Orlando	T	6-7	330	2	Miami	D2b-11	D2b-Den-11
73 Kuper, Chris	G	6-4	303	7	North Dakota	D5-06	D5-Den-06
65 Ramirez, Manny	G	6-3	313	6	Texas Tech	FA-11	D4-Det-07
60 Saulsberry, Quentin	C	6-3	305	1	Mississippi State	FA-12	FA-Min-12
Vasquez, Louis	G	6-5	335	4	Texas Tech	FA-SD-13	D3-SD-09
50 Walton, J.D.	C	6-3	305	3	Baylor	D3a-10	D3a-Den-10
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
91 Ayers, Robert	DE	6-3	274	4	Tennessee	D1b-09	D1b-Den-09
93 Beal, Jeremy	DE	6-3	276	1	Oklahoma	D7b-11	D7b-Den-11
63 Garland, Ben	DT	6-5	275	1	Air Force	FA-10	FA-Den-10
70 Jackson, Malik	DL	6-5	270	1	Tennessee	D5-12	D5-Den-12
94 Knighton, Terrance	DT	6-3	330	4	Temple	FA-Jac-13	D3a-Jac-09
98 Siliga, Sealver	NT	6-2	307	1	Utah	FA-11	FA-SF-11
96 Unrein, Mitch	NT	6-4	291	2	Wyoming	FA-10	FA-Hou-10
99 Vickerson, Kevin	DT	6-5	290	7	Michigan State	FA-10	D7-Mia-05
95 Wolfe, Derek	DE	6-5	300	1	Cincinnati	D2a-12	D2a-Den-12
LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
Bradley, Stewart	LB	6-4	258	6	Nebraska	FA-Ari-13	D3-Phi-07
56 Irving, Nate	LB	6-1	240	2	NC State	D3-11	D3-Den-11
53 Johnson, Steven	LB	6-1	237	1	Kansas	FA-12	FA-Den-12
51 Mays, Joe	LB	5-11	250	5	North Dakota State	T-Phi-10	D6-Phi-08
58 Miller, Von	LB	6-3	237	2	Texas A&M	D1-11	D1-Den-11
Phillips, Shaun	LB	6-3	250	9	Purdue	FA-SD-13	D4-SD-04
59 Trevathan, Danny	LB	6-1	232	1	Kentucky	D6-12	D6-Den-12
52 Woodyard, Wesley	LB	6-0	229	5	Kentucky	FA-08	FA-Den-08
DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
20 Adams, Mike	SS	5-11	200	9	Delaware	FA-Cle-12	FA-SF-04
24 Bailey, Champ	CB	6-0	192	14	Georgia	T-Was-04	D1-Was-99
31 Bolden, Omar	CB	5-10	195	1	Arizona State	D4a-12	D4a-Den-12
30 Bruton, David	SS	6-2	217	4	Notre Dame	D4a-09	D4a-Den-09
29 Butler, Mario	CB	6-1	187	1	Georgia Tech	FA-12	FA-Dal-11
28 Carter, Quinton	SS	6-1	200	2	Oklahoma	D4a-11	D4a-Den-11
32 Carter, Tony	CB	5-9	175	4	Florida State	FA-11	FA-Den-09
34 Gideon, Blake	S	6-1	205	1	Texas	FA-12	FA-Ari-12
25 Harris, Chris	CB	5-10	190	2	Kansas	FA-11	FA-Den-11
33 Ihenacho, Duke	SS	6-1	205	1	San Jose State	FA-12	FA-Den-12
26 Moore, Rahim	FS	6-1	196	2	UCLA	D2a-11	D2a-Den-11
45 Rodgers-Cromartie, D.	CB	6-2	182	5	Tennessee State	FA-Phi-13	D1-Ari-08
SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
46 Brewer, Aaron	LS	6-5	225	1	San Diego State	FA-12	FA-Den-12
4 Colquitt, Britton	P	6-3	205	4	Tennessee	FA-09	FA-Den-09
5 Prater, Matt	K	5-10	195	6	UCF	PS-Mia-07	FA-Det-06

Peter Brouillet

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	88	Demaryius Thomas
		Tavarres King (R)
WR	87	Eric Decker
	17	Andre Caldwell
WR	83	Wes Welker
	11	Trindon Holliday
LT	78	Ryan Clady
	75	Chris Clark
LG	68	Zane Beadles
	65	Manny Ramirez
C	50	J.D. Walton
	64	Philip Blake
RG		Louis Vasquez
	73	Chris Kuper
RT	74	Orlando Franklin
		Vinston Painter (R)
TE	81	Joel Dreessen
	84	Jacob Tamme
QB	18	Peyton Manning
	6	Brock Osweiler
RB		Montee Ball (R)
	21	Ronnie Hillman

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	95	Derek Wolfe
	93	Jeremy Beal
DT	92	Sylvester Williams (R)
	99	Kevin Vickerson
DT	94	Terrance Knighton
	98	Sealver Siliga
DE		Shaun Phillips
	91	Robert Ayers
SLB	58	Von Miller
		Stewart Bradley
MLB	56	Nate Irving
	53	Steven Johnson
WLB	52	Wesley Woodyard
	59	Danny Trevathan
CB	24	Champ Bailey
	31	Omar Bolden
CB	45	Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie
	25	Chris Harris
SS	20	Mike Adams
	30	David Bruton
FS	26	Rahim Moore
	28	Quinton Carter

SPECIALISTS

K	5	Matt Prater
P	4	Britton Colquitt
KR	11	Trindon Holliday
PR	11	Trindon Holliday

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
Ronnie Hillman, RB

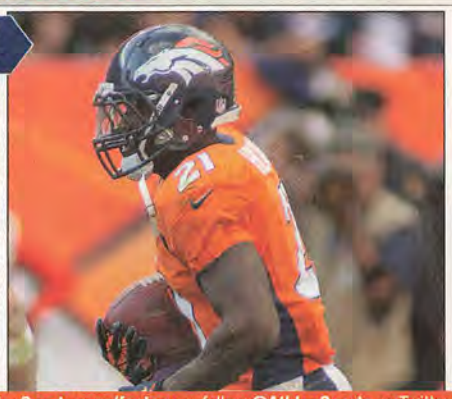
DEEP-SLEEPER
Tavarres King, WR

OVERVALUED
Jacob Tamme, TE

TOP ROOKIE
Montee Ball, RB

BOUNCE-BACK
Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, CB

TOP IDP
Von Miller, LB



For more Fantasy, visit **AthlonSports.com/fantasy** or follow **@AthlonSports** on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 5	Baltimore (Thu.)	8:30	10-6	352.5 (16)	350.9 (17)	24.9 (10)	21.5 (12)
2	Sept. 15	at N.Y. Giants	4:25	9-7	355.4 (14)	383.4 (31)	26.8 (6)	21.5 (12)
3	Sept. 23	Oakland (Mon.)	8:40	4-12	344.0 (18)	354.5 (18)	18.1 (26)	27.7 (28)
4	Sept. 29	Philadelphia	4:25	4-12	354.1 (15)	343.2 (15)	17.5 (29)	27.8 (29)
5	Oct. 6	at Dallas	4:25	8-8	374.6 (6)	355.4 (19)	23.5 (15)	25.0 (24)
6	Oct. 13	Jacksonville	4:05	2-14	299.2 (29)	380.5 (30)	15.9 (30)	27.8 (29)
7	Oct. 20	at Indianapolis	8:30	11-5	362.4 (10)	374.2 (26)	22.3 (18)	24.2 (21)
8	Oct. 27	Washington	4:25	10-6	383.2 (5)	377.7 (28)	27.2 (4)	24.2 (22)
9		BYE						
10	Nov. 10	at San Diego	4:25	7-9	297.2 (31)	326.4 (9)	21.9 (20)	21.9 (16)
11	Nov. 17	Kansas City	4:05	2-14	319.2 (24)	356.5 (20)	13.2 (32)	26.6 (25)
12	Nov. 24	at New England	8:30	12-4	427.9 (1)	373.2 (25)	34.8 (1)	20.7 (9)
13	Dec. 1	at Kansas City	1:00	2-14	319.2 (24)	356.5 (20)	13.2 (32)	26.6 (25)
14	Dec. 8	Tennessee	4:05	6-10	313.1 (26)	374.9 (27)	20.6 (23)	29.4 (32)
15	Dec. 12	San Diego (Thu.)	8:25	7-9	297.2 (31)	326.4 (9)	21.9 (20)	21.9 (16)
16	Dec. 22	at Houston	1:00	12-4	372.1 (7)	323.2 (7)	26.0 (8)	20.7 (9)
17	Dec. 29	at Oakland	4:25	4-12	344.0 (18)	354.5 (18)	18.1 (26)	27.7 (28)

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

AFC WEST FORECAST 2

The Chiefs turned the page yet again after another miserable season, this time parting ways with general manager Scott Pioli and coach Romeo Crennel after yet another unsuccessful regime in Kansas City.

Now for the good news: The Chiefs landed perhaps the hottest free agent entering 2013, former Eagles coach Andy Reid. John Dorsey, a former Packers executive, joined him as GM, and they'll try to bring stability — to say nothing of the first playoff win since January 1994 — to a franchise that has lacked it for years.

They began the latest rebuild immediately, trading for quarterback Alex Smith and releasing Matt Cassel after four mostly forgettable seasons. They quickly signed star wide receiver Dwayne Bowe to a long-term contract, and then drafted offensive tackle Eric Fisher first overall.

Despite a 2–14 record in 2012, there is talent in Kansas City. The Chiefs did, after all, have six Pro Bowlers, including star running back Jamaal Charles. With a kind of luck that has been rare around these parts, a fast turnaround is possible.

See more cheerleaders by visiting AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

THE ORGANIZATION

CHAIRMAN/CEO: Clark Hunt
PRESIDENT: Mark Donovan
GENERAL MANAGER: John Dorsey
STADIUM: Arrowhead Stadium (76,416)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.kcchiefs.com
TICKETS: 816-920-9300
TRAINING CAMP: Missouri Western State University (St. Joseph, Mo.)

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Andy Reid
RECORD WITH TEAM: 0-0
CAREER RECORD: 130-93-1
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Doug Pederson
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Bob Sutton

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

ERIC BERRY, DB

OFFENSE Smith will be the key to Reid's success timeline. The veteran quarterback is limited, as Cassel was, but he will bring an efficiency that hasn't been present since Trent Green was starting. Reid will be judged on how quickly Smith adjusts and proves he can succeed without the eye of Jim Harbaugh, his coach in San Francisco.

The Chiefs spent much of the offseason building around their quarterback, and although that strategy is nothing new in Kansas City, it at least looks promising. Extending Bowe was a no-brainer and should've been done last year. Drafting Knile Davis to help ease the burden on running back Charles — and he was burdened often in 2012 by Crennel — was a smart move. Charles remains the Chiefs' most explosive player. The question this season will be how his body will respond to having 285 carries last season, 55 more than his previous career high. At 26, he's still young, but with an ACL surgery in 2011 and a continual pounding last season, one of the more interesting storylines will be how Charles holds up — and how Reid's staff uses its best big-play threat, in the backfield and in the passing game.

The Chiefs also added receiver Donnie Avery and veteran tight end Anthony Fasano, but the team created a mess for itself at left tackle. Branden Albert, the starter since 2008 and the team's franchise player, publicly said he wouldn't move to another position. Regardless, the Chiefs drafted Fisher at No. 1 and now have two left tackles. Although the team will try to trade Albert, the best bet is that Fisher will start at right tackle as he adds weight — he's listed at 6'8" and 305 pounds — and adjusts to the NFL grind. After that, the Chiefs can decide whether to part ways with Albert or sign the veteran and keep Fisher on the right side, though the top pick is a massive price for a right tackle.

The team's interior line is solid, but with no projected starter with more than three years experience, a veteran presence is lacking. And that could make life difficult for Smith and Charles — and, by extension, Reid, who will be granted only limited patience by a Chiefs fan base scorned before by big names who won elsewhere but couldn't bring success to Kansas City.

DEFENSE The defense will either be the heartbeat of a surprise team or the reason the Chiefs again struggle in the AFC West. The team's linebackers are among the NFL's best, but a defensive line whose best player is the underwhelming Tyson Jackson? That's a situation no coach or coordinator wants to be in, but it's one the Chiefs are faced with.

Outside linebacker Justin Houston showed last year that he could be one of the AFC's better pass-rushers and a complement to Tamba Hali, a team leader and an elite rusher. Derrick Johnson has emerged as one of the league's best all-around inside linebackers, and he'll be asked this season to mentor rookie Nico Johnson, who played for Nick Saban at Alabama.

If this sounds promising, it should, but that line is still a question. The Chiefs were unable to upgrade the position during free agency or the draft, and it'll depend on three questionable draft picks — including two first-rounders — from the previous regime to see them through this season. Jackson is only a serviceable player, and the departure of Glenn Dorsey should elevate Allen Bailey, who has been only a situational player, into the starting lineup. Last year's top pick, nose tackle Dontari Poe, was a pleasant surprise despite a poor draft-night grade, and the Chiefs need him to continue making progress. Still, the line is the shallowest position on a team that has, for years, tried to make improvements along its defensive front. Yet again,

Charles: AP Photo/Charlie Riedel; Berry: AP Photo/David Drapkin; Cheer: Joe Robbins/Getty Images

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Back to Arrowhead Quarterback Chase Daniel, who signed with the Chiefs to back up Alex Smith, had his most successful game ever at Arrowhead Stadium. As the quarterback at Missouri, Daniel led the Tigers to a huge win against rival Kansas in 2007, propelling Mizzou to the top of the national rankings for the first time in team history.

Bowe makes cameo Wide receiver Dwayne Bowe, who has often shown interest in performances beyond football, made a short appearance in the music video for Arianna's "Sexy People" single, a song perhaps best known for being in the background of a car commercial. In the brief appearance, Bowe is shown seated, playing paper football at a table. He's later shown dancing in a group.

Back to KC First-year GM John Dorsey took the job in part because he met his wife, Tricia, in Kansas City, where they ate barbecue in 1993 on a blind date set up by a former Chiefs employee. Tricia, a Kansas native, moved with Dorsey when he became an executive with the Green Bay Packers, though her law office was still based in Kansas City. Dorsey collected books about football, including one about Chiefs founder Lamar Hunt, and called the position in Kansas City his "dream job."

Staying in the game Al Harris, the longtime Green Bay defensive back, retired as a player in May after 14 seasons, But his career in football continues as he joined Andy Reid's coaching staff, where Harris will work with the Chiefs' defensive backs. He'll have plenty of talent to work with, including cornerback Brandon Flowers and safety Eric Berry, but his job also won't be easy. The Chiefs' secondary took heavy criticism last season under former coach Romeo Crennel, and Harris will oversee one of the most important parts of Reid's early attempt at a rebuild. Harris interned with the Miami Dolphins in 2012 to learn the basics of coaching.

Reid sampler Reid, who attracted attention during the NFL Draft by wearing huge, colorful Hawaiian shirts, makes no apologies about sampling his new city's food offerings, most famously Kansas City's many barbecue restaurants. In late spring, Reid suggested that he had tried barbecue from "about 50" establishments, although he wouldn't name a favorite. "I haven't found one I don't like," he said.

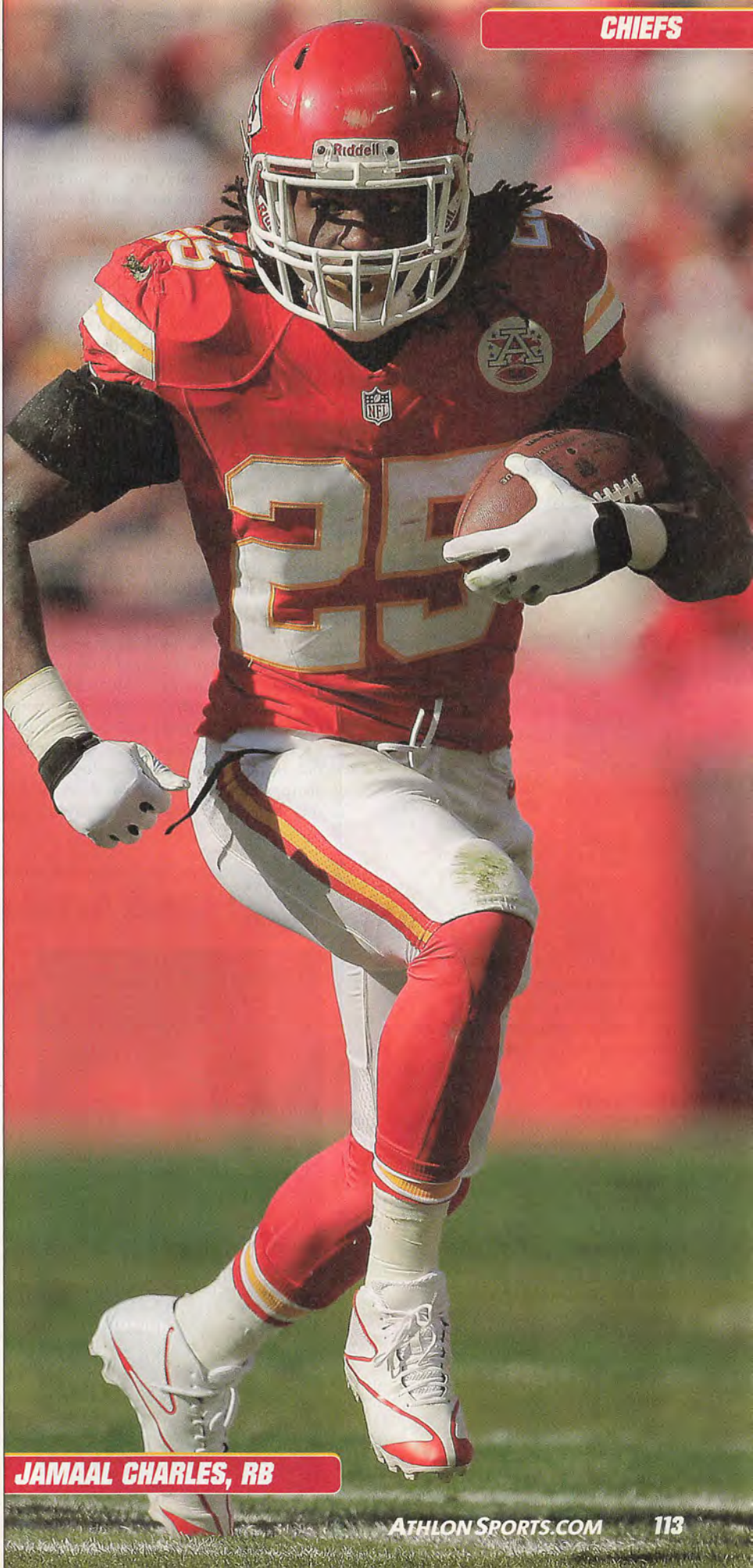
PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
WR	Donnie Avery	Indianapolis
QB	Chase Daniel	New Orleans
TE	Anthony Fasano	Miami
CB	Dunta Robinson	Atlanta
QB	Alex Smith	San Francisco
CB	Sean Smith	Miami

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
CB	Javier Arenas	Arizona
WR	Steve Breaston	Free Agent
QB	Matt Cassel	Minnesota
DE	Glenn Dorsey	San Francisco
RB	Peyton Hillis	Free Agent
G	Ryan Lilja	Free Agent
QB	Brady Quinn	Seattle
T	Eric Winston	Free Agent



JAMAAL CHARLES, RB

2012 RESULTS (2–14)

Sept. 9	Atlanta	L	24–40
Sept. 16	at Buffalo	L	17–35
Sept. 23	at New Orleans (ot)	W	27–24
Sept. 30	San Diego	L	20–37
Oct. 7	Baltimore	L	6–9
Oct. 14	at Tampa Bay	L	10–38
Oct. 28	Oakland	L	16–26
Nov. 1	at San Diego	L	13–31
Nov. 12	at Pittsburgh (ot)	L	13–16
Nov. 18	Cincinnati	L	6–28
Nov. 25	Denver	L	9–17
Dec. 2	Carolina	W	27–21
Dec. 9	at Cleveland	L	7–30
Dec. 16	at Oakland	L	0–15
Dec. 23	Indianapolis	L	13–20
Dec. 30	at Denver	L	3–38

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Matt Cassel	277	161	1,796	6	12
Brady Quinn	197	112	1,141	2	8

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Jamaal Charles	285	1,509	5.3	5
Peyton Hillis	85	309	3.6	1
Shaun Draughn	59	233	3.9	2
Matt Cassel	27	145	5.4	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Dwayne Bowe	59	801	13.6	3
Dexter McCluster	52	452	8.7	1
Jamaal Charles	35	236	6.7	1
Tony Moeaki	33	453	13.7	1

KICKING: Ryan Succop, 28-34 FGs, 17-17 XPs, 101 points
TACKLES: Derrick Johnson, 125; Eric Berry, 86
SACKS: Justin Houston, 10; Tamba Hali, 9
INTERCEPTIONS: Brandon Flowers, 3; Stanford Routt, 2
FORCED FUMBLES: Derrick Johnson, 3

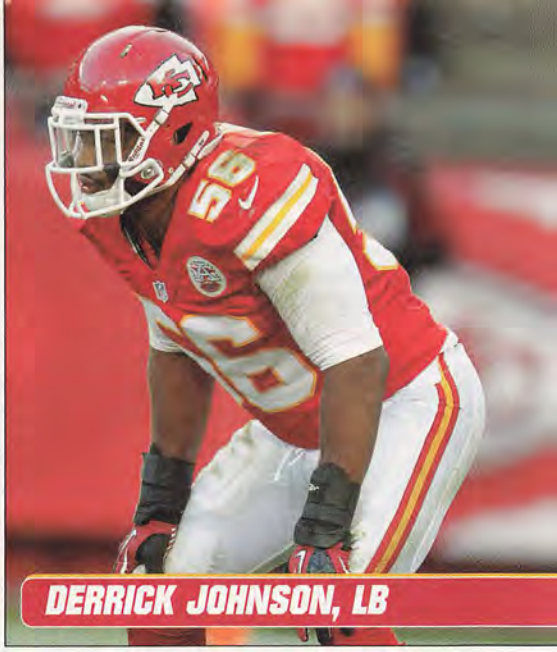
2012 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	319.2	24	10
Rushing	149.7	5	1
Passing	169.6	32	16
Scoring	13.2	32	16
Third Down %	33.0	28	14
Punt Returns	8.7	21	13
Kick Returns	21.6	24	14

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	356.5	20	9
Rushing	135.7	27	13
Passing	220.8	12	6
Scoring	26.6	25	12
Interceptions	7	T31	16
Sacks	27.0	T29	14
Turnover Differential	-24	T31	16

this will likely be the team's top priority during the 2014 offseason.

Confidence in the Chiefs' secondary falls somewhere between the linebackers and linemen. There's talent, but there was so much movement during the offseason that it's difficult to know how well the defensive backs will jell. Strong safety Eric Berry is a promising defender entering his fourth season, and cornerback Brandon Flowers is one of the league's most complete corners. But cornerbacks Dunta Robinson and Sean Smith, brought in as free agents, are imperfect. Reid has indicated that rookie Sanders Commings could start at free safety, pushing aside the talented but injury-prone Kendrick Lewis.


DERRICK JOHNSON, LB

SPECIALISTS Dustin Colquitt has a new contract as the league's highest-paid punter, and kicker Ryan Succop has the talent to become one of the best at his position.

The Chiefs will take their chances at kick returner with Shaun Draughn and Dexter McCluster, who has big-play capability but problems with fumbles. The team traded Javier Arenas, its punt returner the past three seasons, to Arizona and will either let McCluster and Draughn handle both jobs or try a new face in a return game that has improved little.

FINAL ANALYSIS Reid has made no promises of a playoff appearance, and that's the smart play for a team with plenty of holes — but also plenty of potential. If the Chiefs are somehow in contention, it'll mean Smith has adapted quickly to Reid's offensive scheme, the defensive line has played better than the roster suggests it will, and the secondary and offensive line have quickly found chemistry and comfort. That's a tall order.

More likely is another year of growing pains but with some noticeable progress. Eight wins may be the barometer, which, after 2012, seems just fine. Bowe, Hali, Johnson and Charles aren't getting any younger, but if Reid and Dorsey continue the smart, methodical approach they've leaned on so far, brighter days are ahead for this suffering franchise and fan base.

NFL DRAFT 2013 CHIEFS IN THE DRAFT

B

RD PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1. Eric Fisher	T	6-8	305	Cent. Michigan
3. Travis Kelce	TE	6-5	260	Cincinnati
3. Knile Davis	RB	6-0	227	Arkansas
4. Nico Johnson	LB	6-2	245	Alabama
5. Sanders Commings	DB	6-0	216	Georgia
6. Eric Kush	C	6-4	304	California (Pa.)
6. Braden Wilson	FB	6-3	251	Kansas State
7. Mike Catapano	LB	6-3	270	Princeton

The Chiefs decided weeks before the draft that they were taking an offensive tackle at No. 1 overall, and they opted for Eric Fisher, a rawer, meaner player with a perhaps higher upside than Texas A&M's Luke Joeckel. But where does he fit? He's a natural left tackle, but the Chiefs were unable to trade veteran Branden Albert, who has occupied the position since 2008. Travis Kelce is big and talented, but he's unlikely to pass Tony Moeaki and Anthony Fasano on the depth chart. Third-rounder Knile Davis could be the big complement to Jamaal Charles that the Chiefs have searched for since Thomas Jones' terrific 2010 season. Nico Johnson, well-schooled at Alabama, will fit nicely into a solid linebacking corps. Sanders Commings is a likely starter at safety.

Johnson: Ric Fogel; Fisher: AP Photo/G.M. Andrews

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
10 Daniel, Chase	QB	6-0	225	4	Missouri	FA-NO-13	FA-Was-09
11 Smith, Alex	QB	6-4	217	8	Utah	T-SF-13	D1-SF-05
12 Stanzi, Ricky	QB	6-4	228	2	Iowa	D5a-11	D5a-KC-11
RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
25 Charles, Jamaal	RB	5-11	199	5	Texas	D3a-08	D3a-KC-08
44 D'Imperio, Ryan	FB	6-3	240	2	Rutgers	FA-13	D7-Min-10
20 Draughn, Shaun	RB	6-0	205	1	North Carolina	FA-11	FA-Was-11
45 Eachus, Nate	RB	5-10	212	1	Colgate	FA-12	FA-KC-12
32 Gray, Cyrus	RB	5-10	206	1	Texas A&M	D6-12	D6-KC-12
35 Sherman, Anthony	FB	5-10	242	2	Connecticut	T-KC-13	D5-Ari-11
RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
17 Avery, Donnie	WR	5-11	200	5	Houston	FA-Ind-13	D2-StL-08
89 Baldwin, Jon	WR	6-4	230	2	Pittsburgh	D1-11	D1-KC-11
8 Bellamy, Josh	WR	6-0	206	1	Louisville	FA-12	FA-KC-12
82 Bowe, Dwayne	WR	6-2	221	6	LSU	D1-07	D1-KC-07
10 Copper, Terrance	WR	6-0	207	9	East Carolina	FA-KC-11	FA-Dal-04
80 Fasano, Anthony	TE	6-4	255	7	Notre Dame	FA-Mia-13	D2-Dal-06
88 Hemingway, Junior	WR	6-1	225	1	Michigan	D7b-12	D7b-KC-12
22 McCluster, Dexter	WR	5-8	170	3	Ole Miss	D2a-10	D2a-KC-10
81 Moeaki, Tony	TE	6-3	252	3	Iowa	D3b-10	D3b-KC-10
84 Newsome, Jamar	WR	6-1	201	1	UCF	FA-12	FA-Jac-11
19 Wylie, Devon	WR	5-9	187	1	Fresno State	D4-12	D4-KC-12
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
76 Albert, Branden	T	6-5	316	5	Virginia	D1b-08	D1b-KC-08
71 Allen, Jeff	OL	6-4	306	1	Illinois	D2-12	D2-KC-12
73 Asamoah, Jon	G	6-4	305	3	Illinois	D3a-10	D3a-KC-10
61 Hudson, Rodney	C	6-2	299	2	Florida State	D2-11	D2-KC-11
70 Mims, David	OL	6-8	335	1	Virginia Union	FA-11	FA-KC-11
77 Patterson, Lucas	OL	6-4	295	1	Texas A&M	FA-12	FA-KC-11
74 Schwartz, Geoff	G	6-6	340	4	Oregon	FA-Min-13	D7b-Car-07
79 Stephenson, Donald	OL	6-6	312	1	Oklahoma	D3-12	D3-KC-12
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
97 Bailey, Allen	DL	6-3	288	2	Miami	D3b-11	D3b-KC-11
70 DeVito, Mike	DE	6-3	305	6	Maine	FA-NYJ-13	FA-NYJ-07
94 Jackson, Tyson	DE	6-4	296	4	LSU	D1-09	D1-KC-09
60 Long, Jerome	DL	6-5	285	1	San Diego State	D7a-12	D7a-KC-12
92 Poe, Dontari	DT	6-3	346	1	Memphis	D1-12	D1-KC-12
95 Powe, Jerrell	DL	6-2	331	2	Ole Miss	D6-11	D6-KC-11
98 Toribio, Anthony	DT	6-1	315	2	Carson-Newman	FA-12	FA-Mia-08
LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
53 Diles, Zac	LB	6-2	245	6	Kansas State	FA-Ten-13	D7-Hou-07
91 Hali, Tamba	LB	6-3	275	7	Penn State	D1-06	D1-KC-06
50 Houston, Justin	LB	6-3	258	2	Georgia	D3a-11	D3a-KC-11
56 Johnson, Derrick	LB	6-3	242	8	Texas	D1-05	D1-KC-05
99 Jones, Edgar	LB	6-3	262	6	Southeast Missouri	FA-Bal-12	FA-Bal-07
Jordan, Akeem	LB	6-1	230	6	James Madison	FA-Phi-13	FA-Phi-07
47 Kilgore, Chad	LB	6-1	230	1	NW Missouri State	FA-13	FA-Oak-12
Lemon, Orie	LB	6-1	242	1	Oklahoma State	FA-13	FA-Dal-11
51 Zombo, Frank	LB	6-3	254	3	Central Michigan	FA-GB-13	FA-GB-10
DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
39 Abdullah, Husain	S	6-0	204	4	Washington State	FA-13	FA-Min-08
29 Berry, Eric	S	6-0	211	3	Tennessee	D1-10	D1-KC-10
30 Brown, Jalil	CB	6-1	204	2	Colorado	D4-11	D4-KC-11
24 Flowers, Brandon	CB	5-9	187	5	Virginia Tech	D2-08	D2-KC-08
31 Hartman, Tysyn	DB	6-3	206	1	Kansas State	FA-12	FA-KC-12
23 Lewis, Kendrick	S	6-0	198	3	Ole Miss	D5a-10	D5a-KC-10
49 Menzie, De'Quan	DB	5-11	202	1	Alabama	D5-12	D5-KC-12
34 Robinson, Dunta	CB	5-10	183	9	South Carolina	FA-Atl-13	D1-Hou-04
26 Routt, Stanford	CB	6-1	195	8	Houston	FA-12	D2-Oak-05
27 Smith, Sean	CB	6-3	218	4	Utah	FA-Mia-13	D2b-Mia-09
38 Thorpe, Neiko	DB	6-2	185	1	Auburn	FA-12	FA-KC-12
SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
2 Colquitt, Dustin	P	6-3	210	8	Tennessee	D3-05	D3-KC-05
43 Gafford, Thomas	LS	6-2	250	5	Houston	FA-09	FA-GB-06
6 Succop, Ryan	K	6-2	218	4	South Carolina	D7c-09	D7c-KC-09

AP Photo/Charlie Riedel

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	82	Dwayne Bowe
	89	Jon Baldwin
WR	17	Donnie Avery
	22	Dexter McCluster
LT	76	Branden Albert
	79	Donald Stephenson
LG	73	Jon Asamoah
	74	Geoff Schwartz
C	61	Rodney Hudson
		Eric Kush (R)
RG	71	Jeff Allen
	74	Geoff Schwartz
RT	72	Eric Fisher (R)
	79	Donald Stephenson
TE	81	Tony Moeaki
	80	Anthony Fasano
QB	11	Alex Smith
	10	Chase Daniel
FB	35	Anthony Sherman
		Braden Wilson (R)
RB	25	Jamaal Charles
		Knile Davis (R)

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	94	Tyson Jackson
	70	Mike DeVito
DT	92	Dontari Poe
	98	Anthony Toribio
DE	97	Allen Bailey
	70	Mike DeVito
OLB	91	Tamba Hali
		Mike Catapano (R)
ILB	56	Derrick Johnson
		Akeem Jordan
ILB		Nico Johnson (R)
		Akeem Jordan
OLB	50	Justin Houston
	99	Edgar Jones
CB	24	Brandon Flowers
	34	Dunta Robinson
CB	27	Sean Smith
	30	Jalil Brown
SS	29	Eric Berry
	39	Husain Abdullah
FS		Sanders Commings (R)
	23	Kendrick Lewis

SPECIALISTS

P	2	Dustin Colquitt
K	6	Ryan Succop
KR	22	Dexter McCluster
PR	22	Dexter McCluster

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
Jon Baldwin, WR

DEEP-SLEEPER
Shaun Draughn, RB

OVERVALUED
Dexter McCluster, WR

TOP ROOKIE
Travis Kelce, TE

BOUNCE-BACK
Eric Berry, S

TOP IDP
Derrick Johnson, LB

For more Fantasy, visit **AthlonSports.com/fantasy** or follow **@AthlonSports** on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 8	at Jacksonville	1:00	2-14	299.2 (29)	380.5 (30)	15.9 (30)	27.8 (29)
2	Sept. 15	Dallas	1:00	8-8	374.6 (6)	355.4 (19)	23.5 (15)	25.0 (24)
3	Sept. 19	at Philadelphia (Thu.)	8:25	4-12	354.1 (15)	343.2 (15)	17.5 (29)	27.8 (29)
4	Sept. 29	N.Y. Giants	1:00	9-7	355.4 (14)	383.4 (31)	26.8 (6)	21.5 (12)
5	Oct. 6	at Tennessee	1:00	6-10	313.1 (26)	374.9 (27)	20.6 (23)	29.4 (32)
6	Oct. 13	Oakland	1:00	4-12	344.0 (18)	354.5 (18)	18.1 (26)	27.7 (28)
7	Oct. 20	Houston	1:00	12-4	372.1 (7)	323.2 (7)	26.0 (8)	20.7 (9)
8	Oct. 27	Cleveland	1:00	5-11	314.2 (25)	363.8 (23)	18.9 (24)	23.0 (19)
9	Nov. 3	at Buffalo	1:00	6-10	342.9 (19)	362.9 (22)	21.5 (21)	27.2 (26)
10		BYE						
11	Nov. 17	at Denver	4:05	13-3	397.9 (4)	290.8 (2)	30.1 (2)	18.1 (4)
12	Nov. 24	San Diego	1:00	7-9	297.2 (31)	326.4 (9)	21.9 (20)	21.9 (16)
13	Dec. 1	Denver	1:00	13-3	397.9 (4)	290.8 (2)	30.1 (2)	18.1 (4)
14	Dec. 8	at Washington	1:00	10-6	383.2 (5)	377.7 (28)	27.2 (4)	24.2 (22)
15	Dec. 15	at Oakland	4:05	4-12	344.0 (18)	354.5 (18)	18.1 (26)	27.7 (28)
16	Dec. 22	Indianapolis	1:00	11-5	362.4 (10)	374.2 (26)	22.3 (18)	24.2 (21)
17	Dec. 29	at San Diego	4:25	7-9	297.2 (31)	326.4 (9)	21.9 (20)	21.9 (16)

OAKLAND RAIDERS

See more cheerleaders by visiting AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER: Mark Davis
CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Amy Trask
GENERAL MANAGER: Reggie McKenzie
DIRECTOR OF FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION: Tom Delaney
STADIUM: O.co Coliseum (53,200)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.raiders.com
TICKETS: 800-724-3377
TRAINING CAMP: Napa Valley Marriott (Napa Valley, Calif.)

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Dennis Allen
RECORD WITH TEAM: 4-12
CAREER RECORD: 4-12
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Greg Olson
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Jason Tarver

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

Raiders general manager Reggie McKenzie was just warming up last year when he overhauled the scouting department and made a few changes to his roster. The heavy lifting on what is clearly a complete reconstruction project in Oakland began after the Raiders capped a disheartening 4–12 season in Year 1 under McKenzie and coach Dennis Allen.

When he was hired by Raiders owner Mark Davis, McKenzie said he inherited some "out of whack" contracts that he'd have to deal with in order to bring fiscal sanity and flexibility to the Raiders. So after last season, he whacked wide receiver Darrius Heyward-Bey, free safety Michael Huff and linebacker Rolando McClain, three players drafted in the top 10 by the late Al Davis.

McKenzie traded quarterback Carson Palmer to Arizona after the veteran declined to take a big pay cut and replaced him with the more affordable Matt Flynn, acquired in a deal with Seattle. He also cut highly paid defensive tackle Tommy Kelly and made no effort to re-sign defensive tackle Richard Seymour or punter Shane Lechler.

By next season, most of the Raiders' massive amount of "dead money" should disappear, and they'll have plenty of salary cap room to pursue free agents or lock up their own players. This season, they'll try to survive with a Moneyball-like roster packed with affordable players, many of them on one-year contracts.

OFFENSE The Palmer era in Oakland ended after less than two full seasons, and offensive coordinator Greg Knapp's second stint with the Raiders lasted only one year. Knapp's zone blocking scheme never fit running back Darren McFadden's downhill running style. Shortly after the season ended, Allen fired Knapp, acknowledging his own mistake of promoting a system that didn't fit his personnel. New Raiders offensive coordinator Greg Olson and assistant head coach/offensive line coach Tony Sparano will rely on a power running scheme that's suited to McFadden and a less complex offense that shouldn't take the Raiders so long to pick up.

But the question remains: Can McFadden stay healthy? He missed the final nine games in 2011 with a Lisfranc foot injury. Last year he missed four games with a high ankle sprain. He's missed 23 games over five seasons because of injuries, and now he's entering the final year of his rookie contract.

Palmer passed for 4,018 yards last season but was traded to the Cardinals in a move to save money and get younger. It's highly debatable, however, whether the Raiders passing attack will be better with the unproven Flynn. That's assuming Flynn can win the job, something he couldn't do last year in Seattle when third-round draft pick Russell Wilson was named the starter after a stellar preseason. The Raiders will likely have a package of plays for quarterback Terrelle Pryor designed to take advantage of his running ability, but he has one career start and has yet to prove he has enough passing accuracy or arm strength to be an NFL starter.

The Raiders haven't had a clear-cut No. 1 receiver who puts fear into opposing defenses since Tim Brown was in his prime. That will likely be the case again this season with the wildly inconsistent Denarius Moore the top returning receiver. Tight end Brandon Myers, who led the team with 79 catches, signed with the Giants as a free agent, and returning tight ends Richard Gordon and David Ausberry have combined for 12 career catches in two seasons.

Four starters on the offensive line return, including left tackle Jared Veldheer and center Stefen Wisniewski, and this group should fare better blocking in a power running scheme. The Raiders kept right guard Mike Brisiel, a former Texan who had a disastrous, injury-plagued 2012 season after signing a big free agent contract. They re-signed right tackle Khalif Barnes.

DEFENSE It wasn't until late last season that the Raiders started catching on to the aggressive, multiple defense that Allen and rookie defensive coordinator Jason Tarver installed. Only three starters from that defense — strong safety Tyvon Branch, left end Lamarr Houston and weakside linebacker Miles Burris — are still on the roster, and Burris could lose his job to former Miami Dolphin Kevin Burnett. So Allen and Tarver had better hope the newcomers are quick studies, or they could be in for another rough start.

McKenzie did most of his work in free agency on the defensive side, adding nine potential new starters: linebackers Nick Roach, Kaluka Maiava and Burnett, cornerbacks Tracy Porter and Mike Jenkins, free safety Usama Young, defensive tackles Vance Walker and Pat Sims and defensive end Jason Hunter. Of those, only Roach, Maiava and Burnett received multi-year

JARED VELDHEER, LT

Peter Brouillet

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Oh brother Assuming they both make the 53-man roster, outside linebackers Kevin and Kaelin Burnett will join a small fraternity of brothers who have played together in the NFL. Kaelin signed with the Raiders in 2012 as an undrafted rookie from Nevada and appeared in six games. Kevin, entering his ninth NFL season, signed with Oakland as a free agent. Kevin says the fact that he plays on the weak side and Kaelin on the strong side made it possible for him to become a Raider. "I wasn't coming in to play the same position as my brother," Kevin says. "I'll go on record saying that. I want to make sure that we all understand that I'm coming in here to assist my brother, first and foremost."

Award winner New Raiders linebacker Nick Roach was one of 32 NFL players last year to receive the Ed Block Courage Award. The award goes to players "who exemplify commitments to the principles of sportsmanship and courage." Winners are selected by a vote of teammates. "What it says to me is that you were able to earn the respect of your teammates in your locker room," says Roach, who played the past six seasons for the Chicago Bears. "That's obviously a huge honor that you can get an award that's voted on strictly by the guys that you play with."

Parcells disciple Tony Sparano, the Raiders' new assistant head coach and offensive line coach, believes in an old-school, physical brand of football. It's no wonder, considering he's worked under Tom Coughlin, Marty Schottenheimer and Bill Parcells. Parcells, he says, "had probably the greatest impact on my philosophy and how I coach the game."

Position switch The Raiders hope a position change jump-starts Taiwan Jones' NFL career this season. After two injury-plagued, unproductive years as a running back, Jones will move to cornerback. That's the position he played in high school and early in his college career at Eastern Washington before moving to running back. Jones, one of the fastest Raiders, talked about a potential switch as early as December. "I've thought about it a lot," Jones says. "I just love playing football. If they need me to play defense, I think I'd be pretty happy with that."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
LB	Kevin Burnett	Miami
QB	Matt Flynn	Seattle
DE	Jason Hunter	Denver
CB	Mike Jenkins	Dallas
RB	Rashad Jennings	Jacksonville
LB	Kaluka Maiava	Cleveland
CB	Tracy Porter	Denver
LB	Nick Roach	Chicago
DT	Pat Sims	Cincinnati
DT	Vance Walker	Atlanta
FS	Usama Young	Cleveland

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
WR	Darrius Heyward-Bey	Indianapolis
FS	Michael Huff	Baltimore
DT	Tommy Kelly	New England
P	Shane Lechler	Houston
LB	Rolando McClain	Retired
TE	Brandon Myers	N.Y. Giants
QB	Carson Palmer	Arizona
DT	Richard Seymour	Free Agent
LB	Philip Wheeler	Miami

DARREN McFADDEN, RB

2012 RESULTS (4–12)

Sept. 10	San Diego	L	14–22
Sept. 16	at Miami	L	13–35
Sept. 23	Pittsburgh	W	34–31
Sept. 30	at Denver	L	6–37
Oct. 14	at Atlanta	L	20–23
Oct. 21	Jacksonville (ot)	W	26–23
Oct. 28	at Kansas City	W	26–16
Nov. 4	Tampa Bay	L	32–42
Nov. 11	at Baltimore	L	20–55
Nov. 18	New Orleans	L	17–38
Nov. 25	at Cincinnati	L	10–34
Dec. 2	Cleveland	L	17–20
Dec. 6	Denver	L	13–26
Dec. 16	Kansas City	W	15–0
Dec. 23	at Carolina	L	6–17
Dec. 30	at San Diego	L	21–24

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Carson Palmer	565	345	4,018	22	14
Terrelle Pryor	30	14	155	2	1

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Darren McFadden	216	707	3.3	2
Marcel Reece	59	271	4.6	0
Mike Goodson	35	221	6.3	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Brandon Myers	79	806	10.2	4
Marcel Reece	52	496	9.5	1
Denarius Moore	51	741	14.5	7
Darrius Heyward-Bey	41	606	14.8	5
Rob Streater	39	584	15.0	3

KICKING: Sebastian Janikowski, 31-34 FGs, 25-25 XPs, 118 points
TACKLES: Philip Wheeler, 109; Miles Burris, 96
SACKS: Lamarr Houston, 4; Desmond Bryant, 4
INTERCEPTIONS: Four players tied with 2
FORCED FUMBLES: Philip Wheeler, 2

2012 STATS

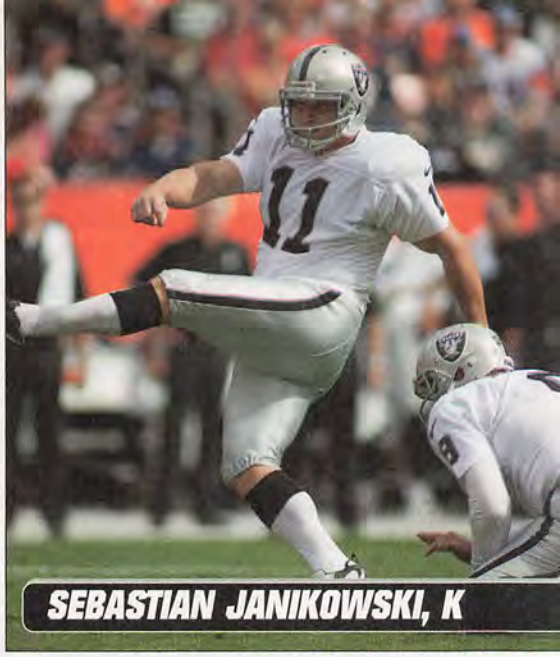
TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	344.0	18	6
Rushing	88.8	28	15
Passing	255.2	8	4
Scoring	18.1	26	12
Third Down %	35.0	26	12
Punt Returns	5.1	32	16
Kick Returns	22.3	T20	T11

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	354.5	18	8
Rushing	118.6	18	8
Passing	235.9	20	10
Scoring	27.7	28	14
Interceptions	11	T23	T12
Sacks	25.0	31	15
Turnover Differential	-7	23	10

contracts. That trio of linebackers should help make up for the loss of talented strong-side backer Philip Wheeler to Miami as a free agent.

Last year, McKenzie signed cornerbacks Ron Bartell and Shawntae Spencer, a pair of veteran free agents coming off injuries. Both were injured early in the season and barely saw the field. This year he signed Porter and Jenkins, two younger corners trying to get their careers back on track, and used his top draft pick on Houston corner D.J. Hayden, who should start as a rookie. Porter started just four games last year for Denver during a season marred by a concussion and a seizure. Jenkins has 48 career starts but started just twice last year for Dallas. Porter and Young should adapt quickly to the Raiders' defense.

McKenzie did little to help the Raiders' low-voltage pass rush, which is still in desperate need of a force off the edge.



SEBASTIAN JANIKOWSKI, K

SPECIALISTS Kicker Sebastian Janikowski, one of the NFL's most accurate long-range weapons, returns for his 14th season, but Lechler left as a free agent and signed with Houston after 13 years with the Raiders. Lechler was a seven-time Pro Bowl punter and was named first-team All-Pro six times, but he had an off year in 2012 after undergoing offseason knee surgery. Marquette King, who spent last season on injured reserve as a rookie free agent, is a more affordable option. He has a big leg but lacks consistency and NFL experience.

Explosive return man Jacoby Ford missed the entire 2012 season with a Lisfranc foot injury that required surgery. He has a franchise-record four kickoff returns for touchdowns. If he recovers fully, Ford will likely take over the punt return duties, too.

FINAL ANALYSIS After winning only four games in 2012, the Raiders appear headed for another painful season. They've missed the playoffs for 10 straight seasons and will need a miracle to stop that streak this year. The defense should be a little better. How could it be worse? On offense, the Raiders will need McFadden to stay healthy and Flynn to exceed expectations to have any chance of surpassing last year's win total.

NFL DRAFT 2013 RAIDERS IN THE DRAFT

C

RD PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1. D.J. Hayden	CB	5-11	191	Houston
2. Menelik Watson	T	6-5	310	Florida State
3. Sio Moore	OLB	6-1	245	Connecticut
4. Tyler Wilson	QB	6-2	215	Arkansas
5. Nick Kasa	TE	6-6	269	Colorado
6. Latavius Murray	RB	6-3	224	UCF
6. Mychal Rivera	TE	6-3	242	Tennessee
6. Stacy McGee	DT	6-3	308	Oklahoma
7. Brice Butler	WR	6-3	199	San Diego State
7. David Bass	DE	6-4	262	Missouri Western

After trading the No. 3 overall pick to Miami for Nos. 12 and 42, GM Reggie McKenzie took D.J. Hayden, a cornerback who nearly died last year after tearing a vein in his heart during a collision in practice. Then he drafted Menelik Watson, who grew up in England and played basketball at Marist before ending his career at Florida State. Hayden fills a huge need in a patchwork secondary. Watson is a project with a big upside. Sio Moore adds another aggressive, attacking piece to the Raiders' defensive puzzle. Tyler Wilson could put some heat on Matt Flynn. The Raiders lost backup running back Mike Goodson, and Latavius Murray could help fill that vital role, along with free agent addition Rashad Jennings.

Janikowski: Peter Brouillet; Hayden: Manny Flores/Icon SMI

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
15 Flynn, Matt	QB	6-2	225	5	LSU	T-Sea-13	D7a-GB-08
6 Pryor, Terrelle	QB	6-4	233	2	Ohio State	SD3-11	SD3-Oak-11

RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
Jennings, Rashad	RB	6-1	228	4	Liberty	FA-Jac-13	D7a-Jac-09
20 McFadden, Darren	RB	6-1	218	5	Arkansas North	D1-08	D1-Oak-08
49 Olawale, Jamize	FB	6-1	240	1	North Texas	FA-12	FA-Dal-12
45 Reece, Marcel	FB	6-1	255	3	Washington	FA-08	FA-Mia-08
32 Stewart, Jeremy	RB	5-11	215	1	Stanford	FA-12	FA-Phi-12

RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
86 Ausberry, David	TE	6-4	258	2	USC	D7-11	D7-Oak-11
84 Criner, Juron	WR	6-3	221	1	Arizona	D5b-12	D5b-Oak-12
12 Ford, Jacoby	WR	5-9	190	3	Clemson	D4b-10	D4b-Oak-10
82 Gordon, Richard	TE	6-4	268	2	Miami	D6-11	D6-Oak-11
17 Moore, Denarius	WR	6-0	190	2	Tennessee	D5-11	D5-Oak-11
87 Session, Travionte	WR	6-2	195	1	Nevada	FA-12	FA-Oak-12
47 Shuler, Mickey	TE	6-4	251	2	Penn State	FA-12	D7-Min-10
80 Streater, Rod	WR	6-3	200	1	Temple	FA-12	FA-Oak-12

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
69 Barnes, Khalif	T	6-6	321	8	Washington	FA-Jac-09	D2-Jac-05
Barron, Alex	T	6-7	320	6	Florida State	FA-13	D1-StL-05
70 Bergstrom, Tony	OL	6-5	310	1	Utah	D3-12	D3-Oak-12
65 Brisiel, Mike	G	6-5	310	5	Colorado State	FA-Hou-12	FA-Hou-06
62 Foster, Jason	G	6-3	300	1	Rhode Island	FA-12	FA-Oak-12
76 Nix, Lucas	OL	6-5	320	1	Pittsburgh	FA-12	FA-Oak-12
67 Parsons, Alex	C/G	6-4	316	1	USC	FA-10	FA-Oak-10
79 Smith, Willie	T	6-5	310	2	East Carolina	W-Was-12	FA-Was-11
68 Veldheer, Jared	T	6-8	321	3	Hillsdale	D3-10	D3-Oak-10
61 Wisniewski, Stefen	G/C	6-3	307	2	Penn State	D2-11	D2-Oak-11

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
75 Bair, Brandon	DL	6-6	285	2	Oregon	FA-12	FA-KC-11
96 Bilukidi, Christo	DT	6-5	320	1	Georgia State	D6-12	D6-Oak-12
97 Carter, Andre	DE	6-4	260	12	California	FA-12	D1-SF-01
91 Crawford, Jack	DE	6-5	281	1	Penn State	D5a-12	D5a-Oak-12
99 Houston, Lamarr	DE	6-3	300	3	Texas	D2-10	D2-Oak-10
Hunter, Jason	DE	6-4	271	7	Appalachian State	FA-Den-13	FA-GB-06
Sims, Pat	DT	6-2	335	5	Auburn	FA-Cin-13	D3a-Cin-08
Walker, Vance	DT	6-2	304	4	Georgia Tech	FA-Atl-13	D7-Atl-09

LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
95 Burnett, Kaelin	LB	6-4	240	1	Nevada	FA-12	FA-Oak-12
Burnett, Kevin	LB	6-3	240	8	Tennessee	FA-Mia-13	D2-Dal-05
56 Burris, Miles	LB	6-2	240	1	San Diego State	D4-12	D4-Oak-12
57 Clayton, Keenan	LB	6-1	230	3	Oklahoma	W-Phi-12	D4-Phi-10
Goethel, Travis	LB	6-2	255	3	Arizona State	D6-10	D6-Oak-10
48 Harris, Jerrell	LB	6-2	240	1	Alabama	FA-12	FA-Atl-12
49 Kurn, Mario	LB	6-2	240	1	San Diego	FA-12	FA-Oak-12
Maiava, Kaluka	LB	6-0	229	4	USC	FA-Cle-13	D4-Cle-09
Roach, Nick	LB	6-1	234	6	Northwestern	FA-Chi-13	FA-SD-07

DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
28 Adams, Phillip	DB	5-11	195	3	South Carolina St.	W-Sea-12	D7-SF-10
33 Branch, Tyvon	S	6-0	210	5	Connecticut	D4a-08	D4a-Oak-08
35 Chekwa, Chimdi	CB	6-0	194	2	Ohio State	D4a-11	D4a-Oak-11
31 Francies, Coye	CB	6-1	185	2	San Jose State	W-Sea-12	D6-Cle-09
23 Hanson, Joselio	CB	5-9	185	8	Texas Tech	FA-12	FA-SF-03
Jenkins, Mike	CB	5-10	198	5	South Florida	FA-Dal-13	D1b-Dal-08
22 Jones, Taiwan	CB	6-0	197	2	Eastern Wash.	D4b-11	D4b-Oak-11
38 Nelms, Cory	DB	6-1	191	1	Miami	FA-12	FA-SF-11
37 Owusu-Ansah, Akwasi	S	6-1	205	2	Indiana (PA)	FA-12	D4-Dal-10
Porter, Tracy	CB	5-11	186	5	Indiana	FA-Den-13	D2-NO-08
29 Ross, Brandian	DB	6-1	191	1	Youngstown State	FA-12	FA-GB-11
Smith, Reggie	S	6-1	192	4	Oklahoma	FA-13	D3-SF-08
28 Young, Usama	DB	6-0	200	6	Kent State	FA-Cle-13	D3-NO-07

SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
59 Condo, Jon	LS	6-3	245	6	Maryland	FA-06	FA-Dal-05
11 Janikowski, Sebastian	K	6-1	258	13	Florida State	D1-00	D1-Oak-00
2 King, Marquette	P	6-0	190	1	Fort Valley State	FA-12	FA-Oak-12

Peter Brouillet

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	17	Denarius Moore
	12	Jacoby Ford
WR	80	Rod Streater
	84	Juron Criner
LT	68	Jared Veldheer
		Alex Barron
LG	70	Tony Bergstrom
	67	Alex Parsons
C	61	Stefen Wisniewski
	67	Alex Parsons
RG	65	Mike Brisiel
	76	Lucas Nix
RT	69	Khalif Barnes
		Menelik Watson (R)
TE	82	Richard Gordon
	86	David Ausberry
QB	15	Matt Flynn
	6	Terrelle Pryor
FB	45	Marcel Reece
	49	Jamize Olawale
RB	20	Darren McFadden
		Rashad Jennings

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	99	Lamarr Houston
	91	Jack Crawford
DT		Pat Sims
		Stacy McGee (R)
DT		Vance Walker
	96	Christo Bilukidi
DE	97	Andre Carter
		Jason Hunter
SLB		Kaluka Maiava
		Sio Moore (R)
MLB		Nick Roach
		Kaluka Maiava
WLB		Kevin Burnett
	56	Miles Burris
CB	25	D.J. Hayden (R)
		Tracy Porter
CB		Mike Jenkins
	23	Joselio Hanson
SS	33	Tyvon Branch
	29	Brandian Ross
FS	28	Usama Young
		Reggie Smith

SPECIALISTS

K	11	Sebastian Janikowski
P	2	Marquette King

KR	12	Jacoby Ford
PR	12	Jacoby Ford

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
Rod Streater, WR

DEEP-SLEEPER
Juron Criner, WR

OVERVALUED
Denarius Moore, WR

TOP ROOKIE
Latavius Murray, RB

BOUNCE-BACK
Matt Flynn, QB

TOP IDP
Tyvon Branch, S

For more Fantasy, visit **AthlonSports.com/fantasy** or follow **@AthlonSports** on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 8	at Indianapolis	1:00	11-5	362.4 (10)	374.2 (26)	22.3 (18)	24.2 (21)
2	Sept. 15	Jacksonville	4:25	2-14	299.2 (29)	380.5 (30)	15.9 (30)	27.8 (29)
3	Sept. 23	at Denver (Mon.)	8:40	13-3	397.9 (4)	290.8 (2)	30.1 (2)	18.1 (4)
4	Sept. 29	Washington	4:25	10-6	383.2 (5)	377.7 (28)	27.2 (4)	24.2 (22)
5	Oct. 6	San Diego	4:25	7-9	297.2 (31)	326.4 (9)	21.9 (20)	21.9 (16)
6	Oct. 13	at Kansas City	1:00	2-14	319.2 (24)	356.5 (20)	13.2 (32)	26.6 (25)
7		BYE						
8	Oct. 27	Pittsburgh	4:05	8-8	332.7 (21)	275.8 (1)	21.0 (22)	19.6 (6)
9	Nov. 3	Philadelphia	4:05	4-12	354.1 (15)	343.2 (15)	17.5 (29)	27.8 (29)
10	Nov. 10	at N.Y. Giants	1:00	9-7	355.4 (14)	383.4 (31)	26.8 (6)	21.5 (12)
11	Nov. 17	at Houston	1:00	12-4	372.1 (7)	323.2 (7)	26.0 (8)	20.7 (9)
12	Nov. 24	Tennessee	4:05	6-10	313.1 (26)	374.9 (27)	20.6 (23)	29.4 (32)
13	Nov. 28	at Dallas (Thu.)	4:30	8-8	374.6 (6)	355.4 (19)	23.5 (15)	25.0 (24)
14	Dec. 8	at N.Y. Jets	1:00	6-10	299.2 (30)	323.4 (8)	17.6 (28)	23.4 (20)
15	Dec. 15	Kansas City	4:05	2-14	319.2 (24)	356.5 (20)	13.2 (32)	26.6 (25)
16	Dec. 22	at San Diego	4:25	7-9	297.2 (31)	326.4 (9)	21.9 (20)	21.9 (16)
17	Dec. 29	Denver	4:25	13-3	397.9 (4)	290.8 (2)	30.1 (2)	18.1 (4)

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

AFC WEST FORECAST 3

See more cheerleaders by visiting AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER: Alex Spanos
CHAIRMAN/PRESIDENT: Dean Spanos
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT: Michael Spanos
GENERAL MANAGER: Tom Telesco
STADIUM: Qualcomm Stadium (70,561)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.chargers.com
TICKETS: 800-745-3000
TRAINING CAMP: Chargers Park (San Diego, Calif.)

There's nothing like snapping the fans to attention by making a radical regime change and drafting Manti Te'o. That's what the Chargers did after missing the playoffs for the third straight season and watching attendance sag. Citing the need for a "culture change," team president Dean Spanos finally bowed to the fans' wishes and fired Norv Turner and general manager A.J. Smith. He replaced them with 40-year-olds Mike McCoy and Tom Telesco, who are in their first head coaching and general manager gigs, respectively.

Telesco began rebuilding a roster that had grown stale because of Smith's unproductive drafts and a wild free agent binge prior to the 2012 season. Among his many moves, Telesco got rid of left tackle Jared Gaither, who'd earned the nickname "The Big Lazy," and drafted Te'o, a move sure to give the Chargers much more national exposure than they otherwise would merit. Still, returning the Bolts to their days of dominating the AFC West could take the new brain trust a few seasons.

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Mike McCoy
RECORD WITH TEAM: 0-0
CAREER RECORD: 0-0
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Ken Whisenhunt
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: John Pagano

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

Playoffs

RYAN MATHEWS, RB

OFFENSE The Chargers hope Philip Rivers can pull out of a slide that's seen him commit 49 turnovers the last two years combined. Not only will Rivers be running a new system under McCoy and new offensive coordinator Ken Whisenhunt, but there are also still big questions about the line. Rivers was under siege much of last season, leading to 49 sacks and 22 turnovers. Fans are concerned that Rivers might have a hard time staying upright again this season.

Telesco spent his first-round draft pick on Alabama right tackle D.J. Fluker, but the new GM failed to upgrade the critical left side of the line in the draft. The Chargers had left tackle Bryant McKinnie in for a visit before he re-signed with Baltimore. So going into training camp, the No. 1 left tackle protecting Rivers' blind side is King Dunlap, a free agent pickup from Philadelphia. Dunlap is big (6'9", 330), but he had a hamstring injury last year, and the Philly line struggled. The Chargers' string of bad luck at left tackle started when Marcus McNeill retired due to a neck injury and continued when Gaither got the heave-ho because of his poor work ethic and injury troubles. The left guard is projected to be Rich Ohrnberger, one of Telesco's three free agent acquisitions on the line. With Fluker set to start at right tackle, Jeromey Clary will move to right guard. Fluker was considered one of the best run-blockers in college last year, but he'll need to improve his pass-blocking.

Another player who needs to bounce back big is running back Ryan Mathews, who broke both collarbones last season and failed to fix his fumbling problem. Five defensive players on his own team had as many or more touchdowns than Mathews, who scored only once. Telesco added free agent Danny Woodhead to help at running back.

The Bolts have plenty of decisions to make at wide receiver, where they added Cal's Keenan Allen in the third round of the draft. Telesco will have to decide whether it's worth keeping Robert Meachem and Eddie Royal, who were unproductive in replacing Vincent Jackson. Meachem practically disappeared after dropping what appeared to be a sure touchdown pass in a 7–6 loss at Cleveland. Danario Alexander was signed in mid-October and ended up being one of the team's most productive receivers. Tight end Antonio Gates bounced back from a painful foot injury but will be playing his 11th season.

While Turner called his own plays and often struggled with game management, McCoy was praised for hiring former Cardinals head coach Whisenhunt as his offensive coordinator.

DEFENSE Te'o instantly became the most intriguing player on the Chargers' roster when Telesco traded up to get him in the second round of the draft. Telesco said he wasn't worried by the star linebacker's poor showing in Notre Dame's blowout loss to Alabama in the BCS National Championship Game, his being involved in a hoax involving a fake girlfriend or his poor 40-yard dash times. After looking so bad against Alabama's powerful run game, Te'o will have to prove that he can make it in the NFL, both physically and mentally. With veteran Takeo Spikes a salary cap casualty, Te'o will play inside linebacker in the 3-4 scheme alongside Donald Butler, who had a breakthrough season in 2012.

Like the offense, the defense has both playmakers and some holes, although Telesco made more moves on this side of the ball due to the salary cap and his desire for a younger roster. While Smith was panned for many of his draft picks in recent years, he did do well in adding some good, young players on defense. Ends Corey Liuget, a first-round pick in 2011, and

Peter Brouillet

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

This is adversity A native of New Orleans, D.J. Fluker and his family were forced to flee as Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005. His family moved to Mobile, Ala., before relocating to Biloxi, Miss., and ultimately Foley, Ala. As a result, he played at three different high schools. As a senior at Foley High School, he was converted from a defensive lineman to offensive tackle. He picked Alabama over Auburn, LSU, Oklahoma, Florida, Clemson and Florida State. That decision paid off with two national championships.

New QB Wide receiver Keenan Allen will be catching passes from a new quarterback for the first time in four seasons. Allen's half-brother Zach Maynard was his quarterback all three years at California. Allen caught a school-record 205 passes for 2,570 yards (third in school history) and 17 touchdowns (seventh).

QBs galore New coach Mike McCoy will be working with his fourth quarterback in three seasons when he tutors Philip Rivers. McCoy was offensive coordinator of the division rival Denver Broncos when they transitioned from Kyle Orton to Tim Tebow midway through the 2011 season. Then it was on to Peyton Manning in 2012, when the Broncos won their second straight AFC West title. Now he'll be coaching Rivers, who's looking to bounce back from two shaky seasons. "He's going to have a great season," McCoy says of Rivers.

Well-prepared Tom Telesco takes over as general manager after having worked in front offices run by one of the game's best talent evaluators, Bill Polian. Telesco worked under Polian with the Buffalo Bills, Carolina Panthers and Indianapolis Colts. After Polian moved on, Telesco worked under Ryan Grigson as the Colts went from 2–14 in 2011 to 11–5 and a playoff team. It was under Polian that Telesco learned his philosophy of building first through the draft.

Well-traveled Rookie quarterback Brad Sorensen has made many stops along the way to the NFL. Sorensen began his collegiate career as the starter at San Bernardino Valley (Calif.) College in 2006. After a two-year LDS Church mission, he arrived at BYU as a walk-on. Sorensen sat out the '09 season as a redshirt then transferred to Southern Utah, where he was a three-year starter.

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
CB	Derek Cox	Jacksonville
T	King Dunlap	Philadelphia
G	Rich Ohrnberger	Arizona
TE	John Phillips	Dallas
RB	Danny Woodhead	New England

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
S	Atari Bigby	Free Agent
CB	Antoine Cason	Arizona
T	Jared Gaither	Free Agent
DT	Antonio Garay	N.Y. Jets
CB	Quentin Jammer	Free Agent
TE	Randy McMichael	Free Agent
DE	Vaughn Martin	Miami
OLB	Shaun Phillips	Denver
ILB	Takeo Spikes	Free Agent
G	Louis Vasquez	Denver
ILB	Demorrio Williams	Free Agent

PHILIP RIVERS, QB

2012 RESULTS (7–9)

Sept. 10	at Oakland	W	22–14
Sept. 16	Tennessee	W	38–10
Sept. 23	Atlanta	L	3–27
Sept. 30	at Kansas City	W	37–20
Oct. 7	at New Orleans	L	24–31
Oct. 15	Denver	L	24–35
Oct. 28	at Cleveland	L	6–7
Nov. 1	Kansas City	W	31–13
Nov. 11	at Tampa Bay	L	24–34
Nov. 18	at Denver	L	23–30
Nov. 25	Baltimore (ot)	L	13–16
Dec. 2	Cincinnati	L	13–20
Dec. 9	at Pittsburgh	W	34–24
Dec. 16	Carolina	L	7–31
Dec. 23	at N.Y. Jets	W	27–17
Dec. 30	Oakland	W	24–21

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Philip Rivers	527	338	3,606	26	15

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Ryan Mathews	184	707	3.8	1
Jackie Battle	95	311	3.3	3
Ronnie Brown	46	220	4.8	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Malcom Floyd	56	814	14.5	5
Antonio Gates	49	538	11.0	7
Ronnie Brown	49	371	7.6	0
Ryan Mathews	39	252	6.5	0
Danario Alexander	37	658	17.8	7

KICKING: Nick Novak, 18-20 FGs, 33-33 XPs, 87 points
TACKLES: Eric Weddle, 97; Takeo Spikes, 78
SACKS: Shaun Phillips, 9.5; Corey Liuget, 7
INTERCEPTIONS: Eric Weddle, 3; Quentin Jammer, 3
FORCED FUMBLES: Three players tied with 3

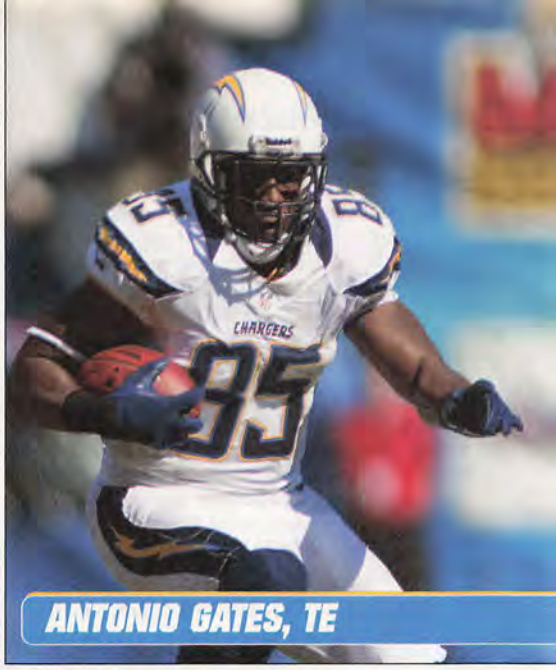
2012 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	297.2	31	16
Rushing	91.3	27	14
Passing	205.9	24	12
Scoring	21.9	20	7
Third Down %	37.8	15	7
Punt Returns	9.7	15	10
Kick Returns	23.9	13	7

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	326.4	9	6
Rushing	96.4	6	3
Passing	230.1	18	9
Scoring	21.9	16	8
Interceptions	14	T16	T6
Sacks	38.0	T11	T6
Turnover Differential	+2	T14	6

Kendall Reyes, a second-rounder in 2012, have fans excited with their dominating play. Liuget had seven sacks and Reyes had 5.5. One problem is the hole in between them. Antonio Garay was allowed to leave as a free agent, leaving Cam Thomas as the only defensive tackle on the roster. The Chargers also lost Shaun Phillips, who led them with 9.5 sacks.

San Diego will turn over three-quarters of its secondary. Only free safety Eric Weddle returns as a starter. The Chargers, who haven't had a thumper at strong safety since Rodney Harrison was released more than 10 years ago, will turn to Brandon Taylor, a third-round pick in 2012. Marcus Gilchrist and free-agent acquisition Derek Cox will be the new starters at cornerback after Antoine Cason left for Arizona and Quentin Jammer became a free agent.



ANTONIO GATES, TE

SPECIALISTS After an off-and-on role with the Chargers, Nick Novak finally stuck as the kicker. He was signed four weeks into the 2012 season after Nate Kaeding got hurt, and he hit 18-of-20 field goal attempts in the final 13 games. He was 16-for-16 inside 50 yards, and his 90 percent conversion rate was the third-highest for a season in team history. Kaeding was eventually put on injured reserve and then released, ending a run in which he became the most accurate regular-season kicker in NFL history. Kaeding's playoff misses, however, still rankle fans. Punter Mike Scifres remains a key player with his powerful left leg, and Mike Windt returns as long snapper.

FINAL ANALYSIS Chargers fans should brace for the possibility that the Bolts could miss the playoffs for the fourth straight season. Telesco doesn't like the word "rebuilding," but it's hard to deny that he has a pretty big project on his hands. He has vowed to rebuild via the draft rather than through expensive, splashy and unpredictable free agent signings, so his plan for reshaping the roster could take a few seasons.

With two-time AFC West champion Denver and Kansas City making their share of big moves, the Chargers might have to settle for finishing ahead of the lowly Oakland Raiders.

NFL DRAFT 2013 CHARGERS IN THE DRAFT

A

RD PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1. D.J. Fluker	T	6-5	339	Alabama
2. Manti Te'o	ILB	6-1	241	Notre Dame
3. Keenan Allen	WR	6-2	206	California
5. Steve Williams	CB	5-9	181	California
6. Tourek Williams	LB	6-4	262	FIU
7. Brad Sorensen	QB	6-4	229	Southern Utah

D.J. Fluker and Manti Te'o will step into starting roles a season after they faced off against each other in the BCS National Championship Game. Fluker is a huge physical specimen whose hands are so big that Alabama had to special-order gloves for him. And he wears size 22 shoes, putting him in the same ballpark as Shaquille O'Neal. The Chargers made a move to get Te'o after he fell out of the first round. He will replace Takeo Spikes. Keenan Allen was too good of a talent to pass up. He'll fight for a job in a crowded wide receiver corps. Steve Williams, a teammate of Allen's at California, and Tourek Williams will provide depth. Last season at FIU, Williams had 14.5 tackles for a loss, including 6.5 sacks. Brad Sorensen gives the Chargers a third quarterback for training camp. He might also compete with Charlie Whitehurst to back up Rivers.

Mathews: Peter Brouillet; Fluker: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
17 Rivers, Philip	QB	6-5	228	9	NC State	T-NYG-04	D1-NYG-04
6 Whitehurst, Charlie	QB	6-5	226	7	Clemson	FA-Sea-12	D3-SD-06

RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
27 Baker, Edwin	RB	5-8	200	1	Michigan State	D7b-12	D7b-SD-12
30 Brown, Ronnie	RB	6-0	230	8	Auburn	FA-Phi-12	D1-Mia-05
44 Gronkowski, Chris	FB	6-2	245	3	Arizona	FA-Den-13	FA-Dal-10
24 Mathews, Ryan	RB	6-0	220	3	Fresno State	D1-10	D1-SD-10
33 McClain, Le'Ron	FB	6-0	260	6	Alabama	FA-KC-12	D4-Bal-07
34 Whittaker, Fozzy	RB	5-10	202	1	Texas	W-Ari-13	FA-Ari-12
39 Woodhead, Danny	RB	5-8	200	5	Chadron State	FA-NE-13	FA-NYJ-08

RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
84 Alexander, Danario	WR	6-5	217	3	Missouri	FA-12	FA-StL-10
86 Brown, Vincent	WR	5-11	190	2	San Diego State	D3a-11	D3a-SD-11
3 Butler, Deon	WR	5-10	182	4	Penn State	FA-Sea-13	D3-Sea-09
80 Floyd, Malcom	WR	6-5	225	7	Wyoming	FA-04	FA-SD-04
82 DePalma, Dan	WR	5-11	192	1	West Chester	FA-NYG-13	FA-NYJ-11
85 Gates, Antonio	TE	6-4	255	10	Kent State	FA-03	FA-SD-03
15 Goodman, Richard	WR	6-0	192	2	Florida State	FA-10	FA-SD-10
89 Green, Ladarius	TE	6-6	240	1	UL Lafayette	D4-12	D4-SD-12
12 Meachem, Robert	WR	6-2	215	6	Tennessee	FA-NO-12	D1-NO-07
83 Phillips, John	TE	6-5	251	4	Virginia	FA-Dal-13	D6b-Dal-09
11 Royal, Eddie	WR	5-10	185	5	Virginia Tech	FA-Den-12	D2-Den-08
10 Willie, Mike	WR	6-2	220	1	Arizona State	FA-12	FA-SD-12

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
64 Baxter, Colin	C	6-3	310	2	Arizona	FA-11	FA-SD-11
66 Clary, Jeromey	G/T	6-6	320	6	Kansas State	D6a-06	D6a-SD-06
62 Dombrowski, Brandyn	G/T	6-5	323	4	San Diego State	FA-08	FA-SD-08
77 Dunlap, King	T	6-9	330	5	Auburn	FA-Phi-13	D7-Phi-08
61 Hardwick, Nick	C	6-4	305	9	Purdue	D3b-04	D3b-SD-04
79 Harris, Mike	T	6-5	318	1	UCLA	FA-12	FA-SD-12
70 Haslam, Kevin	T	6-5	310	3	Rutgers	FA-12	FA-Jac-10
60 Molk, David	C	6-1	300	1	Michigan	D7a-12	D7a-SD-12
74 Ohrnberger, Rich	C/G	6-2	300	4	Penn State	FA-Ari-13	D4-NE-09
78 Rinehart, Chad	G	6-5	321	5	Northern Iowa	FA-Buf-13	D3-Was-08
72 Schilling, Stephen	G/T	6-5	312	2	Michigan	D6b-11	D6b-SD-11
63 Troutman, Johnnie	G	6-4	330	1	Penn State	D5-12	D5-SD-12

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
76 Harrell, Logan	DE	6-2	280	1	Fresno State	FA-12	FA-SD-12
94 Liuget, Corey	DE	6-2	300	2	Illinois	D1-11	D1-SD-11
91 Reyes, Kendall	DE	6-4	300	1	Connecticut	D2-12	D2-SD-12
75 Scafe, Damik	DE	6-2	300	1	Boston College	FA-11	FA-SD-11
93 Thomas, Cam	DT	6-4	335	3	North Carolina	D5a-10	D5a-SD-10
99 Wynn, Jarius	DE	6-3	285	4	Georgia	FA-Ten-13	D6-GB-09

LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
97 Bird, Bront	ILB	6-4	250	2	Texas Tech	FA-12	FA-SD-11
56 Butler, Donald	ILB	6-1	242	3	Washington	D3-10	D3-SD-10
50 Dillard, Philip	LB	6-2	250	2	Nebraska	FA-12	D4-NYG-10
52 English, Larry	OLB	6-2	255	4	Northern Illinois	D1-09	D1-SD-09
59 Gachkar, Andrew	ILB	6-3	240	2	Missouri	D7-11	D7-SD-11
54 Ingram, Melvin	OLB	6-2	265	1	South Carolina	D1-12	D1-SD-12
96 Johnson, Jarret	OLB	6-3	260	10	Alabama	FA-Bal-12	D4a-Bal-03
57 Mouton, Jonas	ILB	6-2	240	2	Michigan	D2b-11	D2b-SD-11
51 Smith, D.J.	LB	5-11	239	2	Appalachian State	FA-GB-13	D6b-GB-11

DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
41 Brown, Cornelius	CB	5-11	198	1	UTEP	FA-13	FA-Chi-10
40 Cattouse, Sean	S	6-2	210	1	California	FA-12	FA-SD-12
22 Cox, Derek	CB	6-1	195	4	William & Mary	FA-Jac-13	D3b-Jac-09
31 Gatson, Greg	CB	5-11	165	1	Arkansas	FA-12	FA-SD-12
38 Gilchrist, Marcus	CB	5-10	198	2	Clemson	D2a-11	D2a-SD-11
26 Patrick, Johnny	CB	5-11	191	2	Louisville	W-NO-13	D3-NO-11
25 Stuckey, Darrell	S	5-11	208	3	Kansas	D4-10	D4-SD-10
28 Taylor, Brandon	SS	5-11	205	1	LSU	D3-12	D3-SD-12
32 Weddle, Eric	FS	5-11	200	6	Utah	D2-07	D2-SD-07
29 Wright, Shareece	CB	5-11	182	2	USC	D3b-11	D3b-SD-11

SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
42 Nelson, Kyle	LS	6-2	240	1	New Mexico State	FA-12	FA-NO-11
9 Novak, Nick	K	6-0	198	5	Maryland	FA-12	FA-Chi-05
5 Scifres, Mike	P	6-2	215	10	Western Illinois	D5-03	D5-SD-03
47 Windt, Mike	LS	6-1	237	3	Cincinnati	FA-10	FA-Cin-10

Peter Brouillet

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	80	Malcom Floyd
	12	Robert Meachem
WR	84	Danario Alexander
	13	Keenan Allen (R)
LT	77	King Dunlap
	79	Mike Harris
LG	74	Rich Ohrnberger
	63	Johnnie Troutman
C	61	Nick Hardwick
	64	Colin Baxter
RG	66	Jeromey Clary
	78	Chad Rinehart
RT	76	D.J. Fluker (R)
	62	Brandyn Dombrowski
TE	85	Antonio Gates
	83	John Phillips
QB	17	Philip Rivers
	6	Charlie Whitehurst
FB	33	Le'Ron McClain
	44	Chris Gronkowski
RB	24	Ryan Mathews
	39	Danny Woodhead

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
RE	94	Corey Liuget
	72	Logan Harrell
NT	93	Cam Thomas
LE	91	Kendall Reyes
	75	Damik Scafe
OLB	52	Larry English
	58	Tourek Williams (R)
ILB	50	Manti Te'o (R)
	57	Jonas Mouton
ILB	56	Donald Butler
	51	D.J. Smith
OLB	96	Jarret Johnson
	58	Tourek Williams (R)
CB	22	Derek Cox
	29	Shareece Wright
CB	38	Marcus Gilchrist
	27	Steve Williams (R)
SS	28	Brandon Taylor
	40	Sean Cattouse
FS	32	Eric Weddle
	25	Darrell Stuckey

SPECIALISTS

K	9	Nick Novak
P	5	Mike Scifres
KR	15	Richard Goodman
PR	11	Eddie Royal

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
Vincent Brown, WR

DEEP-SLEEPER
Ladarius Green, TE

OVERVALUED
Antonio Gates, TE

TOP ROOKIE
Keenan Allen, WR

BOUNCE-BACK
Philip Rivers, QB

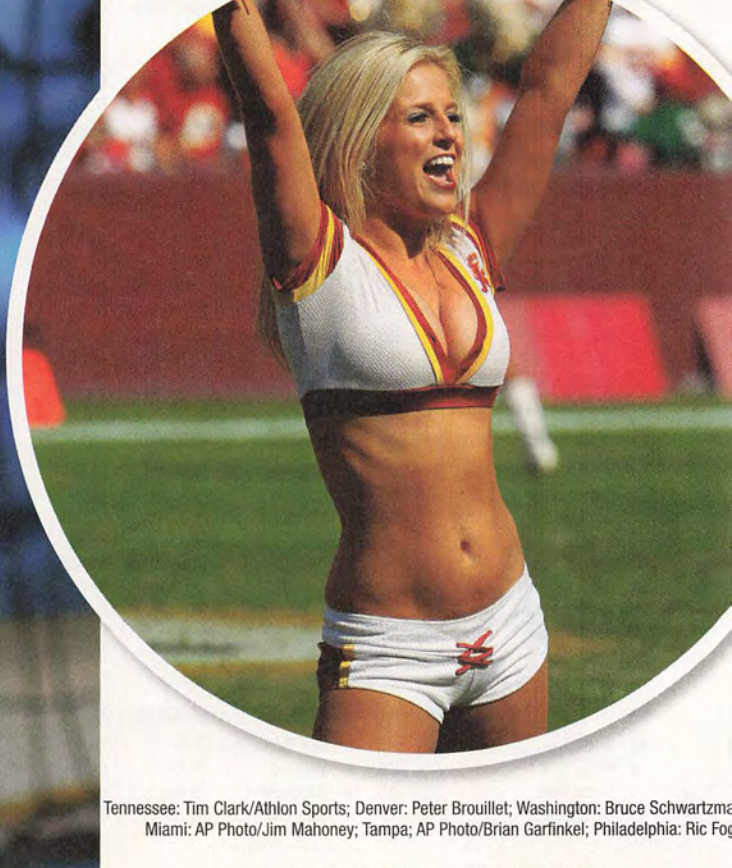
TOP IDP
Eric Weddle, S

For more Fantasy, visit **AthlonSports.com/fantasy** or follow **@AthlonSports** on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 9	Houston (Mon.)	10:20	12-4	372.1 (7)	323.2 (7)	26.0 (8)	20.7 (9)
2	Sept. 15	at Philadelphia	1:00	4-12	354.1 (15)	343.2 (15)	17.5 (29)	27.8 (29)
3	Sept. 22	at Tennessee	1:00	6-10	313.1 (26)	374.9 (27)	20.6 (23)	29.4 (32)
4	Sept. 29	Dallas	4:25	8-8	374.6 (6)	355.4 (19)	23.5 (15)	25.0 (24)
5	Oct. 6	at Oakland	4:25	4-12	344.0 (18)	354.5 (18)	18.1 (26)	27.7 (28)
6	Oct. 14	Indianapolis (Mon.)	8:40	11-5	362.4 (10)	374.2 (26)	22.3 (18)	24.2 (21)
7	Oct. 20	at Jacksonville	1:00	2-14	299.2 (29)	380.5 (30)	15.9 (30)	27.8 (29)
8		BYE						
9	Nov. 3	at Washington	1:00	10-6	383.2 (5)	377.7 (28)	27.2 (4)	24.2 (22)
10	Nov. 10	Denver	4:25	13-3	397.9 (4)	290.8 (2)	30.1 (2)	18.1 (4)
11	Nov. 17	at Miami	1:00	7-9	311.5 (27)	356.8 (21)	18.0 (27)	19.8 (7)
12	Nov. 24	at Kansas City	1:00	2-14	319.2 (24)	356.5 (20)	13.2 (32)	26.6 (25)
13	Dec. 1	Cincinnati	4:25	10-6	332.7 (22)	319.7 (6)	24.4 (12)	20.0 (8)
14	Dec. 8	N.Y. Giants	4:25	9-7	355.4 (14)	383.4 (31)	26.8 (6)	21.5 (12)
15	Dec. 12	at Denver (Thu.)	8:25	13-3	397.9 (4)	290.8 (2)	30.1 (2)	18.1 (4)
16	Dec. 22	Oakland	4:25	4-12	344.0 (18)	354.5 (18)	18.1 (26)	27.7 (28)
17	Dec. 29	Kansas City	4:25	2-14	319.2 (24)	356.5 (20)	13.2 (32)	26.6 (25)

SIDELINES



Tennessee: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Denver: Peter Brouillet; Washington: Bruce Schwartzma
Miami: AP Photo/Jim Mahoney; Tampa; AP Photo/Brian Garfinkel; Philadelphia: Ric Fog

2013 NFL SCHEDULE

WEEK 1

Thursday, Sept. 5
Baltimore at Denver

Sunday, Sept. 8
New England at Buffalo
Tennessee at Pittsburgh
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Jets
Atlanta at New Orleans
Kansas City at Jacksonville
Seattle at Carolina
Cincinnati at Chicago
Miami at Cleveland
Minnesota at Detroit
Oakland at Indianapolis
Arizona at St. Louis
Green Bay at San Francisco
N.Y. Giants at Dallas

Monday, Sept. 9
Philadelphia at Washington
Houston at San Diego

WEEK 2

Thursday, Sept. 12
N.Y. Jets at New England

Sunday, Sept. 15
St. Louis at Atlanta
San Diego at Philadelphia
Dallas at Kansas City
Miami at Indianapolis
Tennessee at Houston
Washington at Green Bay
Cleveland at Baltimore
Carolina at Buffalo
Minnesota at Chicago
New Orleans at Tampa Bay
Detroit at Arizona
Jacksonville at Oakland
Denver at N.Y. Giants
San Francisco at Seattle

Monday, Sept. 16
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati

WEEK 3

Thursday, Sept. 19
Kansas City at Philadelphia

Sunday, Sept. 22
Houston at Baltimore
Detroit at Washington
San Diego at Tennessee
Arizona at New Orleans
Tampa Bay at New England
Cleveland at Minnesota
N.Y. Giants at Carolina
Green Bay at Cincinnati
St. Louis at Dallas
Atlanta at Miami
Buffalo at N.Y. Jets
Jacksonville at Seattle
Indianapolis at San Francisco
Chicago at Pittsburgh

Monday, Sept. 23
Oakland at Denver

WEEK 4

Thursday, Sept. 26
San Francisco at St. Louis

Sunday, Sept. 29
Baltimore at Buffalo
Arizona at Tampa Bay
Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota (London)
N.Y. Giants at Kansas City
Indianapolis at Jacksonville
Seattle at Houston
Cincinnati at Cleveland
Chicago at Detroit
N.Y. Jets at Tennessee
Washington at Oakland
Philadelphia at Denver
Dallas at San Diego
New England at Atlanta

Monday, Sept. 30
Miami at New Orleans

Open Date: Carolina, Green Bay

WEEK 5

Thursday, Oct. 3
Buffalo at Cleveland

Sunday, Oct. 6
Baltimore at Miami
Jacksonville at St. Louis
Kansas City at Tennessee
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants
Seattle at Indianapolis
New Orleans at Chicago
New England at Cincinnati
Detroit at Green Bay
Carolina at Arizona
Denver at Dallas
San Diego at Oakland
Houston at San Francisco

Monday, Oct. 7
N.Y. Jets at Atlanta

Open Date: Minnesota, Pittsburgh, Tampa Bay, Washington

WEEK 6

Thursday, Oct. 10
N.Y. Giants at Chicago

Sunday, Oct. 13
Green Bay at Baltimore
Philadelphia at Tampa Bay
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Jets
Carolina at Minnesota
Oakland at Kansas City
St. Louis at Houston
Cincinnati at Buffalo
Detroit at Cleveland
Tennessee at Seattle
Jacksonville at Denver
New Orleans at New England
Arizona at San Francisco
Washington at Dallas

Monday, Oct. 14
Indianapolis at San Diego

Open Date: Atlanta, Miami

WEEK 7

Thursday, Oct. 17
Seattle at Arizona

Sunday, Oct. 20
Tampa Bay at Atlanta
Chicago at Washington
Dallas at Philadelphia
New England at N.Y. Jets
Buffalo at Miami
St. Louis at Carolina
Cincinnati at Detroit
San Diego at Jacksonville
Houston at Kansas City
San Francisco at Tennessee
Baltimore at Pittsburgh
Cleveland at Green Bay
Denver at Indianapolis

Monday, Oct. 21
Minnesota at N.Y. Giants

Open Date: New Orleans, Oakland

WEEK 8

Thursday, Oct. 24
Carolina at Tampa Bay

Sunday, Oct. 27
San Fran. vs. Jacksonville (London)
Cleveland at Kansas City
Miami at New England
Buffalo at New Orleans
Dallas at Detroit
N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia
N.Y. Jets at Cincinnati
Pittsburgh at Oakland
Atlanta at Arizona
Washington at Denver
Green Bay at Minnesota

Monday, Oct. 28
Seattle at St. Louis

Open Date: Baltimore, Chicago, Indianapolis, San Diego, Tennessee, Houston

WEEK 9

Thursday, Oct. 31
Cincinnati at Miami

Sunday, Nov. 3
Atlanta at Carolina
Minnesota at Dallas
New Orleans at N.Y. Jets
Tennessee at St. Louis
Kansas City at Buffalo
San Diego at Washington
Philadelphia at Oakland
Tampa Bay at Seattle
Baltimore at Cleveland
Pittsburgh at New England
Indianapolis at Houston

Monday, Nov. 4
Chicago at Green Bay

Open Date: Arizona, Denver, Detroit, Jacksonville, N.Y. Giants, San Francisco

WEEK 10

Thursday, Nov. 7
Washington at Minnesota

Sunday, Nov. 10
Cincinnati at Baltimore
Detroit at Chicago
Philadelphia at Green Bay
St. Louis at Indianapolis
Seattle at Atlanta
Oakland at N.Y. Giants
Jacksonville at Tennessee
Buffalo at Pittsburgh
Carolina at San Francisco
Houston at Arizona
Denver at San Diego
Dallas at New Orleans

Monday, Nov. 11
Miami at Tampa Bay

Open Date: Kansas City, N.Y. Jets, Cleveland, New England

WEEK 11

Thursday, Nov. 14
Indianapolis at Tennessee

Sunday, Nov. 17
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo
Atlanta at Tampa Bay
Detroit at Pittsburgh
Washington at Philadelphia
San Diego at Miami
Baltimore at Chicago
Cleveland at Cincinnati
Oakland at Houston
Arizona at Jacksonville
Kansas City at Denver
Minnesota at Seattle
San Francisco at New Orleans
Green Bay at N.Y. Giants

Monday, Nov. 18
New England at Carolina

Open Date: Dallas, St. Louis

WEEK 12

Thursday, Nov. 21
New Orleans at Atlanta

Sunday, Nov. 24
Pittsburgh at Cleveland
Tampa Bay at Detroit
Minnesota at Green Bay
Jacksonville at Houston
N.Y. Jets at Baltimore
San Diego at Kansas City
Chicago at St. Louis
Carolina at Miami
Indianapolis at Arizona
Tennessee at Oakland
Dallas at N.Y. Giants
Denver at New England

Monday, Nov. 25
San Francisco at Washington

Open Date: Buffalo, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, Seattle

WEEK 13

Thursday, Nov. 28
Green Bay at Detroit
Oakland at Dallas
Pittsburgh at Baltimore

Sunday, Dec. 1
Denver at Kansas City
Tennessee at Indianapolis
Jacksonville at Cleveland
Tampa Bay at Carolina
Chicago at Minnesota
Arizona at Philadelphia
Miami at N.Y. Jets
Atlanta vs. Buffalo (Toronto)
St. Louis at San Francisco
New England at Houston
Cincinnati at San Diego
N.Y. Giants at Washington

Monday, Dec. 2
New Orleans at Seattle

WEEK 14

Thursday, Dec. 5
Houston at Jacksonville

Sunday, Dec. 8
Minnesota at Baltimore
Kansas City at Washington
Buffalo at Tampa Bay
Miami at Pittsburgh
Detroit at Philadelphia
Oakland at N.Y. Jets
Indianapolis at Cincinnati
Cleveland at New England
Carolina at New Orleans
Tennessee at Denver
St. Louis at Arizona
Seattle at San Francisco
N.Y. Giants at San Diego
Atlanta at Green Bay

Monday, Dec. 9
Dallas at Chicago

WEEK 15

Thursday, Dec. 12
San Diego at Denver

Sunday, Dec. 15
Washington at Atlanta
Arizona at Tennessee
San Francisco at Tampa Bay
New Orleans at St. Louis
Seattle at N.Y. Giants
Chicago at Cleveland
Houston at Indianapolis
Buffalo at Jacksonville
New England at Miami
Philadelphia at Minnesota
Kansas City at Oakland
N.Y. Jets at Carolina
Green Bay at Dallas
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh

Monday, Dec. 16
Baltimore at Detroit

WEEK 16

Sunday, Dec. 22
Miami at Buffalo
New Orleans at Carolina
Dallas at Washington
Tampa Bay at St. Louis
Chicago at Philadelphia
Cleveland at N.Y. Jets
Indianapolis at Kansas City
Minnesota at Cincinnati
Denver at Houston
Tennessee at Jacksonville
Arizona at Seattle
N.Y. Giants at Detroit
Oakland at San Diego
Pittsburgh at Green Bay
New England at Baltimore

Monday, Dec. 23
Atlanta at San Francisco

WEEK 17

Sunday, Dec. 29
Carolina at Atlanta
Green Bay at Chicago
Houston at Tennessee
Cleveland at Pittsburgh
Washington at N.Y. Giants
Baltimore at Cincinnati
Philadelphia at Dallas
Jacksonville at Indianapolis
N.Y. Jets at Miami
Detroit at Minnesota
Buffalo at New England
Tampa Bay at New Orleans
Denver at Oakland
San Francisco at Arizona
Kansas City at San Diego
St. Louis at Seattle

POSTSEASON

Saturday, Jan. 4
AFC and NFC Wild Card Playoffs (NBC)

Sunday, Jan. 5
AFC and NFC Wild Card Playoffs (CBS and FOX)

Saturday, Jan. 11
AFC and NFC Divisional Playoffs (CBS and FOX)

Sunday, Jan. 12
AFC and NFC Divisional Playoffs (CBS and FOX)

Sunday, Jan. 19
AFC and NFC Championship Games (CBS and FOX)

Sunday, Jan. 26
AFC-NFC Pro Bowl (NBC)

Sunday, Feb. 2
Super Bowl XLVIII, East Rutherford, N.J. (FOX)

Obituary notice from Kelso Sturgeon!

R.I.P. LAS VEGAS

No, I don't mean let's R-I-P Las Vegas – although we'll be doing a lot of that this year. I mean rest in peace.
Hang the crepe over the sportsbooks!
Because since 2008, my Best Bets Club and I have buried Vegas four times!
Over those historic four seasons, my $10 players won $60,000. My $100 players put away $600,000.
Listen, I ALWAYS beat Vegas but NEVER like this.*

So how did it happen? *Simple.* In '08, after five years of development, I launched a new handicapping formula that zoomed my win percentage through the roof. This new formula analyzed thousands of games from every angle: offense, defense, coaching, x's and o's, But it also hung a hard number on intangibles like lookaheads, letdowns, revenge & who-needed-it-more.

So that at the touch of a keypad, I now had **a SMART number** between any two teams in today's game.
Vegas was in the Dark Ages and a new era had begun!

And you're invited – *Put it this way:* **If every bettor joined my Best Bets Club, played my games and followed my recommended units, *Las Vegas would go bust before the season is over!***

That doesn't mean you will never lose. But understand **there IS no inside information** any more. With the help of the computer and the Internet, ***I have eliminated their edge!*** The question is **NOT** can Vegas be beaten. ***The question is how much, how big, how far and how fast. And how hungry are you?*** Because from now on, with my **Best Bets** to guide you, there is nothing stopping you from ultimate success. ***And I invite you to have that experience right now!***

For the modest fee of only $199... My Best Bets Club offers you:

- **The Entire NFL Pre-Season**, including my **50-Unit NFL Pre-Season Game of the Year.**
- The **Entire College Football Season**, with an average of 3 plays each Saturday, **PLUS Best Bets** on many week-night games, rated from 5-to-20 units.
- **The Entire NFL Season**, with an average of 2-3 games each Sunday, a side or total play on **ALL Monday Night Games** and most week-night games, rated from 5-to-20 units.
- **FOUR-100-UNIT** plays between Aug 31st to Sept 29th
- **My 200-UNIT College Football Game of the Year.**
- **My 200-UNIT NFL Football Game of the Year.**
- At least **five 50-UNIT College Conference Games of the Year.**
- My weekly ***FOOTBALL FORECAST*** newsletter: Previews of big plays, college & NFL power ratings, *"How I did it,"* articles, **extra Best Bet Picks,**

2012 Big Game Record 38-15 for 71.7%

You can get all of this for just $199, & can sign up today and **start winning FREE** with several weeks of my **red-hot Major League Baseball Best Bets Service** through the opening of the NFL pre-season in August. ***Before we put the lid on Vegas, let's get ALL the money!***

CALL NOW 1-800-755-2255
www.KelsoSportsHandicapping.com
Kelso Sturgeon, #206, 3315 E. Russell Road, Las Vegas, NV 89120-3477
*documentation on request.

I am the only Las Vegas handicapper whose picks have outearned the Dow Jones for 41 straight years. I played the game... I scouted on the SEC. I am also the only Vegas handicapper who learned football from the immortal "Bear" Bryant of Alabama and NFL Hall of Fame coach Hank Stram. Is there a connection? I think so. When you LEARN perfection, you can't stop trying to get it right.

"Kelso, you did it again. I'm still counting my money."
Mike Dryden,
Norwood, New Jersey

"You won big every year for four years. Amazing!"
D. Brady, *Charleston S.C.*

"You're a man of your word. You performed as promised!"
J.C. Coleman,
Hannibal MO

2013 NFC PREDICTIONS

NFC EAST

1. New York Giants
Eli's still elite, but has the defense improved?

2. Dallas Cowboys
It's do or die for the Jason Garrett regime in Big D.

3. Philadelphia Eagles
Eagles will force the tempo under Chip Kelly.

4. Washington Redskins
RG3's knee is the talk of D.C.

NFC NORTH

1. Green Bay Packers
Only a Super Bowl will suffice for Title Town.

2. Minnesota Vikings
2,500 A.D.: Is this Peterson's year?

3. Chicago Bears
Footballs will be flying around Soldier Field.

4. Detroit Lions
Was 2012 a blip, or sign of a franchise in free-fall?

NFC SOUTH

1. Atlanta Falcons
Playoff win whets franchise's Super appetite.

2. New Orleans Saints
Payton returns to lead Saints' playoff march.

3. Tampa Bay Buccaneers
Bucs still banking on Josh Freeman's right arm.

4. Carolina Panthers
Cam can't do it by himself.

NFC WEST

1. San Francisco 49ers
Harbaugh/Kaepernick duo feeling Super about '13.

2. Seattle Seahawks
Seattle's best not quite good enough in tough West.

3. St. Louis Rams
Rams toughening up under Jeff Fisher.

4. Arizona Cardinals
New day dawning in the Valley of the Sun.

NFC PLAYOFF SEEDING

1. 49ers
2. Packers
3. Giants
4. Falcons
5. Seahawks
6. Saints

WILD CARD

Giants over Saints
Seahawks over Falcons

DIVISIONAL ROUND

49ers over Seahawks
Giants over Packers

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP

49ers over Giants

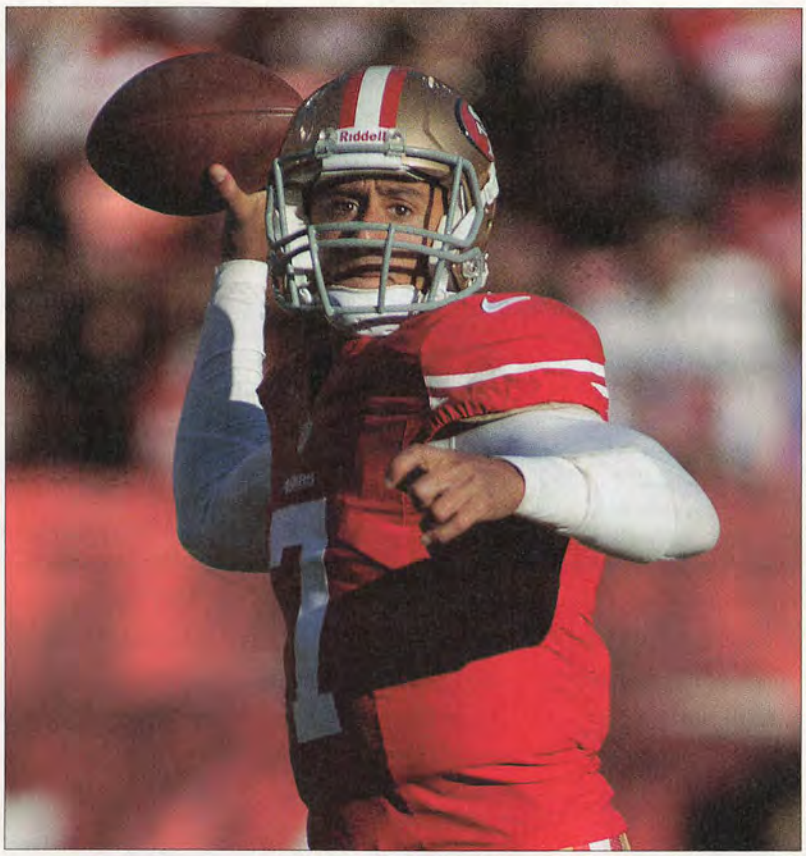
SUPER BOWL XLVIII

49ers
over
Broncos

ATHLON SPORTS NFC POWER RANKINGS

1. 49ers	9. Vikings
2. Giants	10. Bears
3. Packers	11. Eagles
4. Seahawks	12. Redskins
5. Falcons	13. Buccaneers
6. Saints	14. Panthers
7. Rams	15. Lions
8. Cowboys	16. Cardinals

NOTE: Athlon's Power Rankings and playoff seedings differ to some degree because a team's overall strength and its ultimate finish in the standings don't always correlate.



Peter Brouillet

ATHLON SPORTS

AMERICA'S PREMIER SPORTS PUBLISHER

ORDER YOUR PRESEASON ANNUAL TODAY

www.shop.athlonsports.com

ACC, BIG 12, BIG TEN, PAC-12, SEC, NATIONAL EDITION, PRO FOOTBALL & FANTASY FOOTBALL

25% OFF

ENTER DISCOUNT CODE 25PROFB2013

SCAN WITH SMART PHONE

REGIONAL TITLES

4-6 Page In-Depth Team Previews, Rosters, Recruiting, All-Americans, Heisman Favorites & More

NATIONAL TITLE

Previews and Rankings of all 125 FBS Teams, Recruiting, Schedules & More

PRO FOOTBALL

4 Page In-Depth Team Previews, Rosters, Features, Cheerleaders, Stats & More

FANTASY FOOTBALL

500 Players Ranked, 280-Player Big Board, 20 Round Mock Draft, Team Previews & More

DISCOUNT COUPON

TO ORDER ONLINE: www.shop.athlonsports.com

MAIL TO:
Athlon Sports Mail Order
2940 Kraft Drive
Nashville, TN 37204

ATHLON SPORTS
AMERICA'S PREMIER SPORTS PUBLISHER

SEC EDITION

QTY. TEAM
___ Alabama
___ Auburn
___ Arkansas
___ Florida
___ Georgia
___ Kentucky
___ LSU
___ Missouri
___ Ole Miss/Mississippi State
___ South Carolina
___ Tennessee/Vanderbilt
___ Texas A&M

ACC EDITION

QTY. TEAM
___ Boston College
___ Clemson
___ Florida State/Miami
___ Georgia Tech
___ Maryland/Virginia
___ Pittsburgh
___ Syracuse
___ UNC/NC State
___ Virginia Tech

NATIONAL COLLEGE FOOTBALL EDITION

QTY. TEAM
___ Notre Dame/Ohio State/Texas A&M
___ Notre Dame/Oklahoma/Texas A&M
___ Alabama/Clemson/Texas A&M
___ Notre Dame/Oregon/Texas A&M

BIG 12 EDITION

QTY. TEAM
___ Kansas/Kansas State
___ Oklahoma/Oklahoma State
___ Texas/TCU/Texas Tech/Baylor
___ West Virginia

BIG 10 EDITION

QTY. TEAM
___ Illinois/Northwestern/Notre Dame
___ Indiana/Purdue
___ Iowa/Minnesota
___ Michigan/Michigan State
___ Nebraska
___ Ohio State
___ Penn State
___ Wisconsin

PAC 12 EDITION

QTY. TEAM
___ Arizona/Arizona State
___ Cal/Stanford
___ Colorado
___ USC/UCLA
___ Utah
___ Washington/OR/OR State

PRO FOOTBALL

QTY. TEAM
___ Arizona Cardinals
___ Atlanta Falcons
___ Baltimore Ravens/Washington Redskins
___ Buffalo Bills
___ Carolina Panthers
___ Chicago Bears
___ Cincinnati Bengals
___ Cleveland Browns
___ Dallas Cowboys
___ Denver Broncos
___ Detroit Lions
___ Green Bay Packers
___ Houston Texans
___ Indianapolis Colts
___ Houston Texans
___ Jacksonville Jaguars
___ Kansas City Chiefs
___ Miami Dolphins
___ Minnesota Vikings
___ New England Patriots
___ New Orleans Saints
___ New York Giants/New York Jets
___ Oakland Raiders/San Francisco 49ers
___ Philadelphia Eagles
___ Pittsburgh Steelers
___ St. Louis Rams
___ San Diego Chargers
___ Seattle Seahawks
___ Tampa Bay Buccaneers
___ Tennessee Titans

FANTASY FOOTBALL

QTY.
___ 2013 Fantasy Football Edition

SHIPPING ADDRESS: (Where order will be shipped)

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

PAYMENT

____ TOTAL MAGAZINES x $8.50* = $ _____

Price Includes *25% Discount and S&H

DISCOUNT CODE: 25PROFB2013

PAYMENT TYPE: ❑ MONEY ORDER ❑ CHECK ❑ VISA ❑ MASTERCARD ❑ AMERICAN EXPRESS

ACCOUNT NUMBER: _____

EXPIRATION DATE: _____/_____ CVV NUMBER: _____

NAME ON CARD: _____

❑ BILLING ADDRESS IS SAME AS SHIPPING ADDRESS.

❑ BILLING ADDRESS IS DIFFERENT FROM SHIPPING ADDRESS.

BILLING ADDRESS IS:

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

CREDIT CARDS ARE VERIFIED BY THE ABOVE INFORMATION. IF THIS INFORMATION IS NOT CORRECT, YOUR ORDER CANNOT BE PROCESSED.

NFC AWARD WINNERS

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Aaron Rodgers, QB, Packers
No double-check needed to determine that Rodgers is the NFC's top playmaker.

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Patrick Willis, ILB, 49ers
Only a matter of time before the hard-hitting Willis is honored with this award.

COMEBACK PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Percy Harvin, WR, Seahawks
Change of scenery helps the enigmatic yet electric wideout.

OFFENSIVE ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

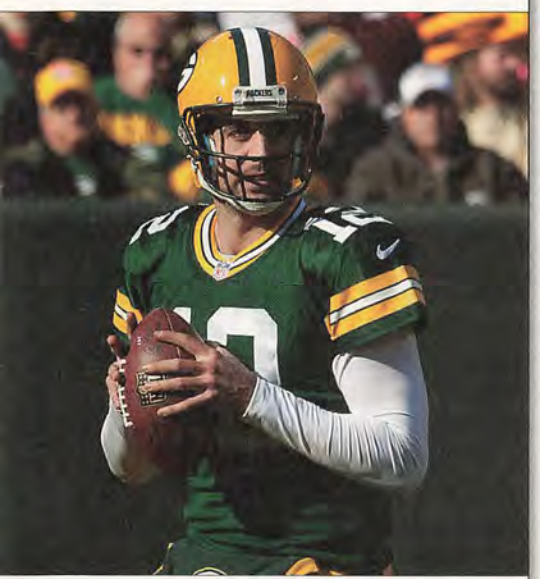
Tavon Austin, WR, Rams
Triple-threat from West Virginia will be the "Greatest Show on Turf" in St. Louis.

DEFENSIVE ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Eric Reid, S, 49ers
Jim Harbaugh traded up for Dashon Goldson's replacement, a playmaker from LSU.

COACH OF THE YEAR

Sean Payton, Saints
Big Easy boss makes up for lost time after serving suspension.



2013 NFC PREDICTIONS

NFC COORDINATOR CAROUSEL

ARIZONA CARDINALS OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR Old: **MIKE MILLER** New: **HAROLD GOODWIN**

Miller was among the many assistant coaches dismissed when Arizona fired Ken Whisenhunt. Goodwin and new head coach Bruce Arians served on Pittsburgh's offensive staff from 2007-11 before moving on to Indianapolis, where Goodwin was the Colts' offensive line coach last season. This will be Goodwin's first stint as an offensive coordinator (though Arians is expected to call the plays).

ARIZONA CARDINALS DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR Old: **RAY HORTON** New: **TODD BOWLES**

Horton left for Cleveland when he was passed over for the head coaching position following Ken Whisenhunt's firing in Arizona. Bowles was promoted from Philadelphia's defensive backs coach to defensive coordinator following Juan Castillo's dismissal during the Eagles' bye week last season.

CAROLINA PANTHERS OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR Old: **ROB CHUDZINSKI** New: **MIKE SHULA**

With Chudzinski getting the head coaching gig in Cleveland, Shula moves up from quarterbacks coach to offensive coordinator on Ron Rivera's Panthers staff. The head coach at Alabama from 2003-06, Shula served as Tampa Bay's offensive coordinator from 1996-99. He's been Cam Newton's quarterbacks coach since Newton entered the league.

CHICAGO BEARS OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR Old: **MIKE TICE** New: **AARON KROMER**

Kromer had been on Sean Payton's staff in New Orleans the past five seasons, serving first as running backs coach and then offensive line coach. He also was the Saints' interim head coach the first six games of last season. Kromer and new Bears head coach Marc Trestman previously worked together on Oakland's staff from 2001-04.

CHICAGO BEARS DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR Old: **ROD MARINELLI** New: **MEL TUCKER**

Marinelli went to Dallas to join Monte Kiffin's staff as the Cowboys' defensive line coach. New Chicago head coach Marc Trestman hired Mel Tucker away from Jacksonville. The Jaguars' defensive coordinator and then assistant head coach from 2009 until last season, Tucker also served as Cleveland's defensive coordinator during the '08 season.

DALLAS COWBOYS DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR Old: **ROB RYAN** New: **MONTE KIFFIN**

The 73-year-old Kiffin is back in the NFL after being a part of his son Lane's staff at Tennessee and USC. The long-time Tampa Bay defensive coordinator (1996-2008) will try to turn around a Dallas defense that finished 24th in the league last season in points allowed and forced a total of just 16 turnovers.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR Old: **STEVE SPAGNUOLO** New: **ROB RYAN**

Rex's twin brother landed in New Orleans following his dismissal in Dallas. This will be Rob's fourth stint as an NFL defensive coordinator; he served in that capacity at Oakland (2004-08) and Cleveland (2009-10) before running things in Dallas the past two seasons.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR Old: **MARTY MORNHINWEG** New: **PAT SHURMUR**

Mornhinweg was let go by the Eagles but landed the same job with the Jets. Shurmur likewise was fired following his 9–23 two-season stint as Cleveland's head coach and decided to return to Philadelphia to work with first-year head coach Chip Kelly.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR Old: **JUAN CASTILLO/TODD BOWLES** New: **BILL DAVIS**

Rookie NFL head coach Chip Kelly tabbed NFL-lifer Davis to run his defense in Philadelphia. Davis has been an NFL assistant coach since 1992 when he got his start in Pittsburgh. The Eagles are the ninth team Davis has worked for, including previous stints as the defensive coordinator for the 49ers (2005-06) and Cardinals (2009-10).

ST. LOUIS RAMS DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR Old: **COMMITTEE** New: **TIM WALTON**

After going with a three-headed monster to run the defense last season, Rams head coach Jeff Fisher hired a member of his coaching tree to take over the reins. Walton served as Detroit's secondary coach the past four seasons, during which time he worked under Jim Schwartz, Fisher's former defensive coordinator when they both were with the Titans.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR Old: **GUS BRADLEY** New: **DAN QUINN**

Bradley parlayed the Seahawks' recent success into the top job in Jacksonville. Quinn returns to the Seahawks after spending the last two seasons as Florida's defensive coordinator. Quinn served under Bradley as the Seahawks' defensive line coach from 2009-10.

Brian Ebner

Authentic Signed Sports Memorabilia

ONE OF THE NATION'S LARGEST SELECTIONS
ORDER ONLINE....OVER 9,000 ITEMS AVAILABLE

Terrific Gift Ideas
For The Sports Fan In Your Life!

ATHLON SPORTS COLLECTIBLES

"GUARANTEED AUTHENTIC FROM THE TRUSTED NAME IN SPORTS SINCE 1967."

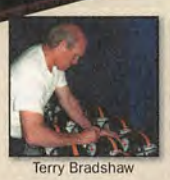
ATHLONSPORTSCOLLECTIBLES.COM

Free Shipping With Direct Online Ordering
Or Call Toll Free 1-888-284-5661

FREE UPS GROUND SHIPPING WITHIN THE CONTINENTAL U.S.
USING DISCOUNT CODE **ATHPFB13** FOR ALL ONLINE ORDERS ONLY.

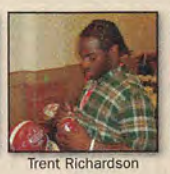
FULL LINE OF MEMORABILIA DISPLAY CASES, FRAMES AND SUPPLIES

NCAA • NFL • NBA • MLB • NHL TEAM LOGO TOASTERS...
Sandwich/Waffle Presses & BBQ Meat Branders
Available for select NFL & MLB Teams


Terry Bradshaw

Brett Favre

Mark Ingram


Trent Richardson

Magic Johnson

Peyton Manning

Joe Montana

Cam Newton

FAX (615-255-8656) • E-MAIL: collectibles@athlonsports.com • 2940 Kraft Drive • Nashville, TN 37204 • Hours Mon.-Fri. 8:30 am 6 pm CST

All autographed items come with Certificate of Authenticity and a 10-day, money-back guarantee. Mail/Phone order shipping & handling $9.95 (photos), $11.95 (baseballs & minis) $13.95 (most other items), plus $2.00 for each same item. Same-day shipping on money orders. TN, GA, IL & NY residents please add sales tax. Prices subject to change. Please confirm all items prior to mailing check & drivers license number must be included.

RETAIL • WHOLESALE • CORP. PREMIUMS • CHARITY AUCTIONS • MAIL ORDER • ORDER ONLINE • ATHLETE APPEARANCES, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

DALLAS COWBOYS

NFC EAST FORECAST 2

See more cheerleaders by visiting AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER/PRESIDENT/GENERAL MANAGER: Jerry Jones
COO/EXECUTIVE VP/DIRECTOR OF PLAYER PERSONNEL: Stephen Jones
STADIUM: Cowboys Stadium (80,000)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.dallascowboys.com
TICKETS: 817-892-5000
TRAINING CAMP: River Ridge Playing Fields (Oxnard, Calif.)

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Jason Garrett
RECORD WITH TEAM: 21-19
CAREER RECORD: 21-19
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Bill Callahan
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Monte Kiffin

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

DEZ BRYANT, WR

After an "uncomfortable" offseason, the Cowboys believe they are ready to contend. Defensive coordinator Rob Ryan and much of the coaching staff paid the price for a third consecutive non-winning season after Jones vowed to make things "uncomfortable" around the team's Valley Ranch headquarters. Ryan was replaced by Monte Kiffin, the grandfather of the Tampa-2. Former Lions head coach Rod Marinelli, who was with Kiffin on Tony Dungy's staff in Tampa Bay, was among the new assistants hired as the Cowboys are converting back to the 4-3 scheme.

The Cowboys didn't have the money under the salary cap to be active in free agency. They instead used the draft to try and help Tony Romo — who signed a six-year, $108 million extension this offseason — become quite comfortable in the pocket. Romo will be asked to do more, including being more involved in the game-planning. "If you told me after our last game that we would get to stand here with the results of this draft, that we would get to stand here with what we have been able to put together with our coaching staff, with what we are doing with Tony — Tony is more involved in the finished product; he is more involved, unequivocally — I'm counting that in," Jones says. "That ought to produce some success."

OFFENSE Romo is the team's quarterback of the present and the future after signing a contract that makes him the NFL's sixth-highest-paid player. Romo is only 17–21 over the past three seasons, has one playoff win his career and, at 33, doesn't have a lot of time left to get it done. The Cowboys spent the draft trying to create a "Romo-friendly" offense — and that starts with a more productive rushing attack. The Cowboys set the team record for fewest rushing yards in a 16-game season in 2012. DeMarco Murray has 1,560 career yards, but he has missed nine games with injuries in his two seasons, including six last year with a foot injury. The Cowboys replaced No. 2 running back Felix Jones, a former first-round pick, with fifth-round selection Joseph Randle. Randle's versatility should make him a solid fit as the team's third down back. Phillip Tanner and Lance Dunbar will compete for the No. 3 job.

Dez Bryant, who struggled to stay healthy his first two seasons, came into his own the last half of 2012. Bryant was one of the league's top receivers over the final eight games, which should have gotten him Pro Bowl honors. Bryant's focus, route-running and knowledge of the playbook have improved greatly since he entered the league. Hamstring tightness continued to dog Miles Austin, who had only two 100-yard games in 2012. Dwayne Harris stepped up in the final seven games, but the Cowboys still drafted Terrance Williams in the third round. Williams will be groomed as the future replacement for Austin. Dallas thinks highly of Cole Beasley, and it hopes to see more of Danny Coale, who had an injury-plagued first season.

Tight end Jason Witten, 31, remains at the top of his game. The Cowboys believe they might finally have his future replacement — second-round pick Gavin Escobar. James Hanna, whom the Cowboys drafted in the sixth round last year, returns after coming on late last season. The Cowboys, though, are lacking a blocking tight end.

The Cowboys have invested heavily in their offensive line the past two offseasons. They signed Doug Free to a four-year, $32 million deal with $17 million guaranteed before the start of the 2011 season to be their left tackle. He now plays right tackle and didn't play it very well last season with 13 penalties, including five holds, and seven sacks allowed. They drafted Tyron Smith with a first-round pick in 2011 and gave him a guaranteed four-year, $12.5 million deal. He has become the team's best lineman and a solid left tackle. This year, the Cowboys spent their first-round pick on a center, Travis Frederick, whom they believe will help give Romo an extra half second.

DEFENSE With the switch to the 4-3, all four linemen have new positions. DeMarcus Ware and Anthony Spencer are moving from outside linebacker to defensive end. Ware, who had only 2.5 sacks in the final eight games, vows to become an elite pass-rusher again despite his advancing age (31 this summer) and offseason shoulder surgery. Spencer was the team's best defensive player last year, and the Cowboys opted to franchise him for a second consecutive season to keep him from becoming a free agent. Jay Ratliff is penciled in at the three-technique and Jason Hatcher at the one-technique. Ratliff, who turns 32 this summer, has had declining production because of injuries. He played in only six games last season.

Romo: John Grieshop/Getty Images; Bryant, Cheer: Tom DiPace

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

QB-less Since 1992, Dallas has drafted only two quarterbacks — Quincy Carter in the second round in 2001 and Stephen McGee in the fourth round in 2009. Carter started 31 games for the team from 2001-03. McGee started one game, in 2010.

Play-calling duties The Cowboys still haven't announced who will call the plays. Jerry Jones appeared to be pressuring Jason Garrett to give up the play-calling duties he has held since 2007, when he was hired as offensive coordinator. Garrett spent the offseason talking with other coaches about the pros and cons of becoming a "walk-around" head coach. Offensive coordinator Bill Callahan is expected to have a bigger hand in the offense, even if he isn't officially calling the plays.

Giants' home away from home The Cowboys haven't beaten the Giants at home since 2008. New York has owned Cowboys Stadium, in fact, going undefeated in Arlington since playing in the first game at the stadium in 2009. The teams open the 2013 season at Cowboys Stadium.

Record watch DeMarcus Ware should set the team's all-time sacks record this season. He has 111 for his career. Though sacks didn't become an official NFL statistic until 1982, the Cowboys still recognize Harvey Martin as their all-time leader with the 114 he had from 1973-83. They list Ware and Randy White (111, 1975-88) tied for second and Ed Jones third (106, 1974-78, '80-89).

Romo gets paid Dallas signed Tony Romo to a six-year, $108 million extension, with $55 million guaranteed. He received a $25 million signing bonus and will get $57 million in the first three years of the deal. It makes Romo the highest-paid player in franchise history and has him under contract through 2019. His $55 million in guarantees ties for the second-most in NFL history behind Tom Brady's $57 million. As an undrafted free agent, Romo spurned the Broncos' offer of a $20,000 signing bonus for the $10,000 the Cowboys offered.

Not feeling the draft Dallas had a fourth-round grade on Arizona State outside linebacker Brandon Magee. Though they didn't draft him, they did sign him to a contract with $70,000 guaranteed. Magee had offers from 10 other teams.

Cowboys batting .572 The Cowboys have the league's second-highest all-time regular-season winning percentage. They are 456–340–6 in their history, with their .572 winning percentage trailing only the Bears' .578. Miami is third at .568.

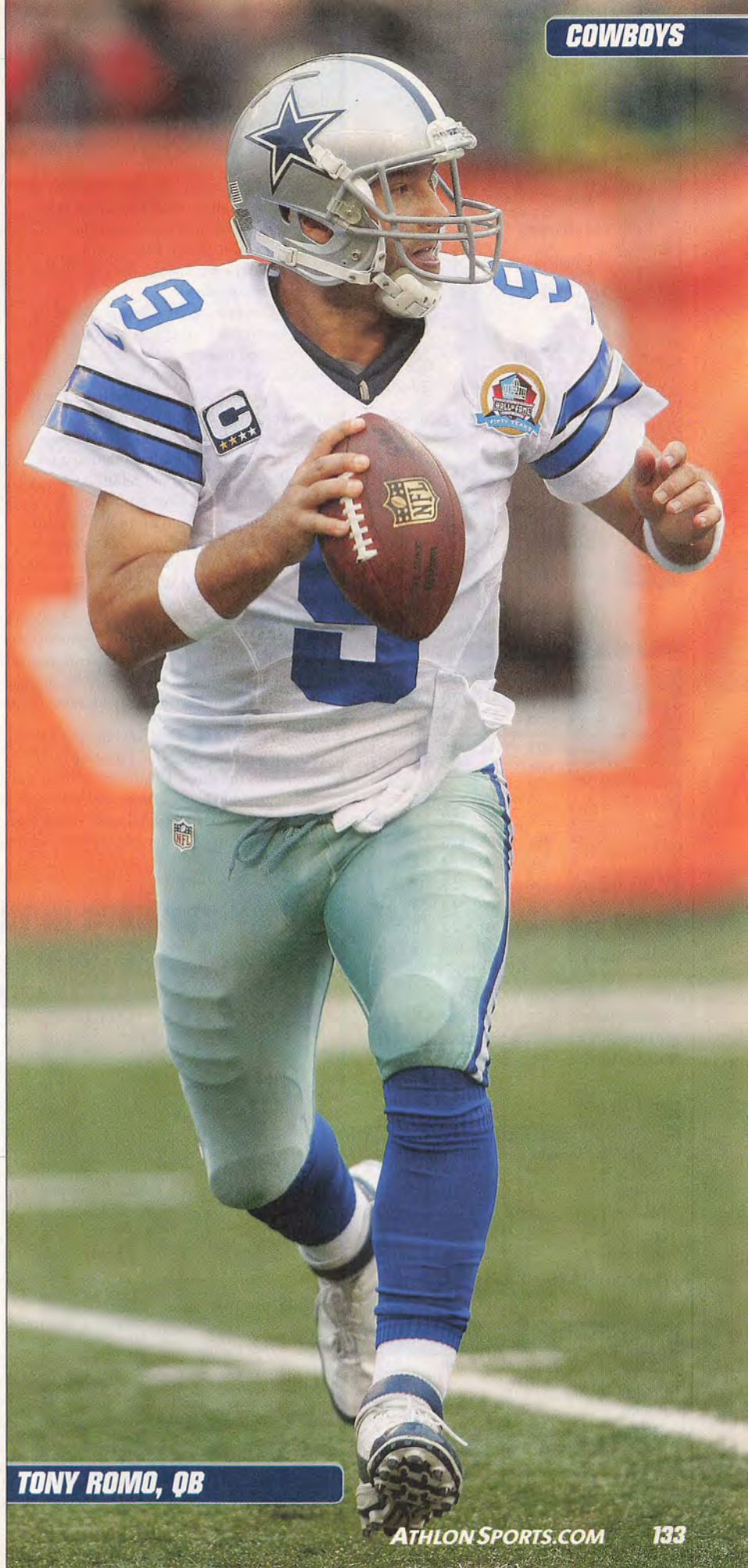
PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
S	Will Allen	Pittsburgh
LB	Justin Durant	Detroit

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
LB	Victor Butler	New Orleans
DE	Kenyon Coleman	New Orleans
LB	Dan Connor	N.Y. Giants
CB	Mike Jenkins	Oakland
RB	Felix Jones	Philadelphia
WR	Kevin Ogletree	Tampa Bay
TE	John Phillips	San Diego
S	Gerald Sensabaugh	Free Agent
DE	Marcus Spears	Baltimore



TONY ROMO, QB

2012 RESULTS (8-8)

Sept. 5	at N.Y. Giants	W	24–17
Sept. 16	at Seattle	L	7–27
Sept. 23	Tampa Bay	W	16–10
Oct. 1	Chicago	L	18–34
Oct. 14	at Baltimore	L	29–31
Oct. 21	at Carolina	W	19–14
Oct. 28	N.Y. Giants	L	24–29
Nov. 4	at Atlanta	L	13–19
Nov. 11	at Philadelphia	W	38–23
Nov. 18	Cleveland (ot)	W	23–20
Nov. 22	Washington	L	31–38
Dec. 2	Philadelphia	W	38–33
Dec. 9	at Cincinnati	W	20–19
Dec. 16	Pittsburgh (ot)	W	27–24
Dec. 23	New Orleans (ot)	L	31–34
Dec. 30	at Washington	L	18–28

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Tony Romo	648	425	4,903	28	19
Kyle Orton	10	9	89	1	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
DeMarco Murray	161	663	4.1	4
Felix Jones	111	402	3.6	3
Lance Dunbar	21	75	3.6	0

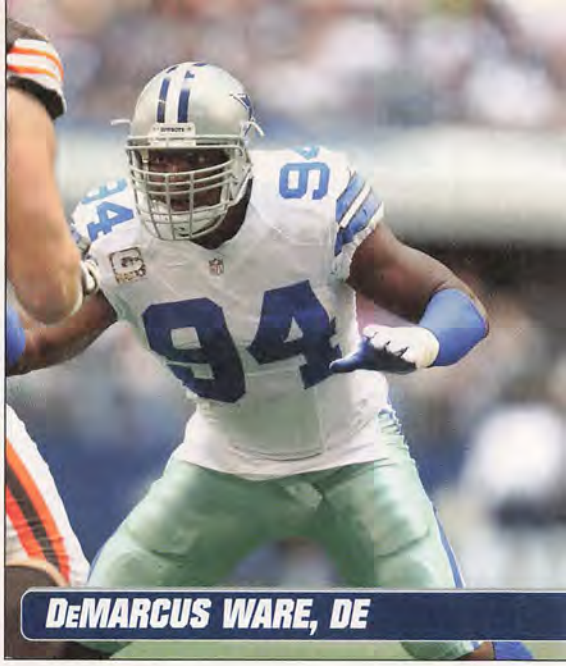
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Jason Witten	110	1,039	9.4	3
Dez Bryant	92	1,382	15.0	12
Miles Austin	66	943	14.3	6
DeMarco Murray	35	251	7.2	0
Kevin Ogletree	32	436	13.6	4

KICKING: Dan Bailey, 29-31 FGs, 37-37 XPs, 124 points
TACKLES: Anthony Spencer, 95; Danny McCray, 71
SACKS: DeMarcus Ware, 11.5; Anthony Spencer, 11
INTERCEPTIONS: Brandon Carr, 3; Two players tied with 1
FORCED FUMBLES: DeMarcus Ware, 5

2012 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	374.6	6	4
Rushing	79.1	31	15
Passing	295.6	3	3
Scoring	23.5	15	10
Third Down %	43.9	5	3
Punt Returns	12.4	4	1
Kick Returns	20.6	29	13

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	355.4	19	11
Rushing	125.2	22	12
Passing	230.2	19	10
Scoring	25.0	24	13
Interceptions	7	T31	16
Sacks	34.0	T20	T9
Turnover Differential	-13	T27	14



DeMARCUS WARE, DE

The Cowboys have high hopes for linebackers Sean Lee and Bruce Carter, believing they can live up to the high standards the organization has had for the position. But there is a caveat: They have to stay healthy. Both ended last season on injured reserve. Lee is the middle linebacker in the Cowboys' 4-3, and Carter is on the weak side. Alex Albright and free agent signee Justin Durant are among the contenders for the strong-side job.

The Cowboys spent a lot on upgrading their cornerback position last offseason. They signed free agent Brandon Carr to a five-year, $50.1 million deal, and they drafted Morris Claiborne in the first round. This year, they drafted B.W. Webb in the fourth round to replace Mike Jenkins, who left in free agency. The safety position is unsettled after the Cowboys released Gerald Sensabaugh. They have faith that Barry Church can return from a torn Achilles tendon, and that Matt Johnson can emerge as a solid contributer. Johnson missed his entire rookie season with hamstring and back injuries. The Cowboys signed Will Allen in free agency, but he has started only 33 games in nine seasons.

SPECIALISTS The Cowboys have confidence in kicker Dan Bailey, who, in two seasons, already has tied the team record for game-winning kicks with seven. Punter Chris Jones was having a solid first full season when he injured his left (kicking) knee in Week 3. He returns to try to settle a position that has been injury-plagued the past two seasons. Harris became a dangerous punt returner and was solid as a kickoff returner, too.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Cowboys aren't drastically different from the team that came one game short of winning the NFC East title in 2012. This team can contend if Romo reduces his interceptions (he threw 19 last year), Kiffin can improve the defense (which set a record for most yards allowed in team history) and the team's key players remain healthy. A division title would no doubt do a lot for coach Jason Garrett's job security, but Romo and the rest of the Cowboys will continue to be under intense pressure until they win at least one playoff game.

NFL DRAFT 2013 COWBOYS IN THE DRAFT

RD PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1. Travis Frederick	C	6-4	312	Wisconsin
2. Gavin Escobar	TE	6-6	255	San Diego State
3. Terrance Williams	WR	6-2	208	Baylor
3. J.J. Wilcox	S	5-11	214	Georgia Southern
4. B.W. Webb	CB	5-10	184	William & Mary
5. Joseph Randle	RB	6-0	204	Oklahoma State
6. DeVonte Holloman	LB	6-1	246	South Carolina

The Cowboys' brain trust was set on getting offensive line help with the first choice. But a run on offensive linemen, including their top two targets in Chance Warmack and Jonathan Cooper, prompted the Cowboys to trade down from No. 18 to No. 31. They selected Travis Frederick, who was as surprised as anyone that he went in the first round. Frederick is penciled in as the starting center, a position of need since Andre Gurode was released before the 2011 season. Tight end Gavin Escobar is the heir apparent to Jason Witten, and Terrance Williams was selected as a No. 3 receiver who could become the eventual replacement for Miles Austin. J.J. Wilcox will get to compete for a starting safety spot. Joseph Randle, who rushed for over 2,600 yards in his final two seasons at Oklahoma State, will back up DeMarco Murray.

Ware: Tom DiPace; Frederick: Brian Ebner

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
18 Orton, Kyle	QB	6-4	225	8	Purdue	FA-KC-12	D4-Chi-05
9 Romo, Tony	QB	6-2	230	10	Eastern Illinois	FA-03	FA-Dal-03
3 Stephens, Nick	QB	6-3	230	1	Tarleton State	FA-12	FA-Ten-12

RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
25 Dunbar, Lance	RB	5-8	191	1	North Texas	FA-12	FA-Dal-12
29 Murray, DeMarco	RB	6-0	215	2	Oklahoma	D3-11	D3-Dal-11
34 Tanner, Phillip	RB	5-10	217	2	Middle Tennessee	FA-11	FA-Dal-11
47 Vickers, Lawrence	FB	6-0	250	7	Colorado	FA-Hou-12	D6-Cle-06

RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
13 Armstrong, Anthony	WR	5-11	179	3	West Texas A&M	FA-13	FA-Mia-08
19 Austin, Miles	WR	6-2	217	7	Monmouth	FA-06	FA-Dal-06
11 Beasley, Cole	WR	5-8	177	1	SMU	FA-12	FA-Dal-12
16 Benford, Tim	WR	5-11	200	1	Tennessee Tech	FA-12	FA-Dal-12
88 Bryant, Dez	WR	6-2	220	3	Oklahoma State	D1-10	D1-Dal-10
81 Coale, Danny	WR	6-0	190	1	Virginia Tech	D5-12	D5-Dal-12
86 Cochart, Colin	TE	6-4	258	3	South Dakota St.	W-Cin-12	FA-Cin-11
85 Green, Jared	WR	6-1	185	1	Southern	FA-13	FA-Car-12
84 Hanna, James	TE	6-4	249	1	Oklahoma	D6-12	D6-Dal-12
17 Harris, Dwayne	WR	5-10	200	2	East Carolina	D6-11	D6-Dal-11
15 Mitchell, Carlton	WR	6-3	215	2	South Florida	FA-13	D6-Cle-10
87 Smith, Andre	TE	6-5	267	1	Virginia Tech	FA-12	FA-Chi-11
82 Witten, Jason	TE	6-6	261	10	Tennessee	D3-03	D3-Dal-03

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
62 Arkin, David	G	6-5	306	1	Missouri State	D4-11	D4-Dal-11
73 Bernadeau, Mackenzy	G	6-4	320	5	Bentley	FA-Car-12	D7c-Car-08
63 Cook, Ryan	C/G	6-6	325	7	New Mexico	T-Mia-12	D2-Min-06
67 Costa, Phil	C	6-3	313	3	Maryland	FA-10	FA-Dal-10
66 Dominguez, Ray	G	6-4	329	1	Arkansas	FA-13	FA-GB-11
68 Free, Doug	T	6-6	325	6	Northern Illinois	D4b-07	D4b-Dal-07
60 Kowalski, Kevin	C/G	6-4	304	2	Toledo	FA-11	FA-Dal-11
65 Leary, Ronald	G	6-3	318	1	Memphis	FA-12	FA-Dal-12
71 Livings, Nate	G	6-4	320	5	LSU	FA-Cin-12	FA-Cin-06
78 Parnell, Jermey	T	6-6	311	3	Ole Miss	FA-10	FA-NO-09
76 Simmons, Aderious	T	6-7	310	1	Arizona State	FA-13	FA-NO-12
77 Smith, Tyron	T	6-5	308	2	USC	D1-11	D1-Dal-11
75 Weems, Darrion	T	6-5	320	1	Oregon	PS-Den-12	FA-Min-12

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
79 Bass, Ben	DL	6-5	283	1	Texas A&M	FA-12	FA-Dal-12
92 Brent, Josh	DT	6-2	320	3	Illinois	SD7-10	SD7-Dal-10
72 Callaway, Robert	DT	6-5	324	1	Saginaw Valley St.	FA-11	FA-Det-10
70 Crawford, Tyrone	DL	6-4	285	1	Boise State	D3-12	D3-Dal-12
97 Hatcher, Jason	DT	6-6	305	7	Grambling	D3b-06	D3b-Dal-06
64 Igbinosun, Ikponmwosa	DL	6-4	288	1	Southern Conn. St.	FA-12	FA-Pit-12
95 Lissemore, Sean	DT	6-3	303	3	William & Mary	D7-10	D7-Dal-10
90 Ratliff, Jay	DT	6-4	303	8	Auburn	D7-05	D7-Dal-05
93 Spencer, Anthony	DE	6-3	250	6	Purdue	D1-07	D1-Dal-07
94 Ware, DeMarcus	DE	6-4	254	8	Troy	D1a-05	D1a-Dal-05
51 Wilber, Kyle	DE	6-4	246	1	Wake Forest	D4a-12	D4a-Dal-12

LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
55 Albright, Alex	LB	6-5	260	2	Boston College	FA-11	FA-Dal-11
54 Carter, Bruce	LB	6-2	240	2	North Carolina	D2-11	D2-Dal-11
52 Durant, Justin	LB	6-1	240	6	Hampton	FA-Det-13	D2-Jac-07
50 Lee, Sean	LB	6-2	245	3	Penn State	D2-10	D2-Dal-10
56 McSurdy, Caleb	LB	6-1	248	1	Montana	D7-12	D7-Dal-12
53 Sheffield, Cameron	LB	6-2	257	2	Troy	FA-13	D5-KC-10
59 Sims, Ernie	LB	6-0	230	7	Florida State	FA-12	D1-Det-06

DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
26 Allen, Will	S	6-1	200	9	Ohio State	FA-Pit-13	D4-TB-04
39 Carr, Brandon	CB	6-0	210	5	Grand Valley State	FA-KC-12	D5-KC-08
42 Church, Barry	S	6-2	218	3	Toledo	FA-10	FA-Dal-10
24 Claiborne, Morris	CB	5-11	185	1	LSU	D1-12	D1-Dal-12
37 Johnson, Matt	S	6-1	215	1	Eastern Wash.	D4b-12	D4b-Dal-12
40 McCray, Danny	S	6-1	222	3	LSU	FA-10	FA-Dal-10
30 Moore, Sterling	CB	5-10	200	2	SMU	PS-NE-12	FA-Oak-11
31 Pellerin, Micah	S	6-0	195	1	Hampton	FA-12	FA-Ind-12
32 Scandrick, Orlando	CB	5-10	191	5	Boise State	D5-08	D5-Dal-08
23 Underwood, Brandon	CB	6-1	197	2	Cincinnati	FA-13	D6-GB-09

SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
5 Bailey, Dan	K	6-0	189	2	Oklahoma State	FA-11	FA-Dal-11
44 Hughlett, Charley	LS	6-4	251	1	UCF	FA-13	FA-Dal-12
6 Jones, Chris	P	6-0	208	1	Carson Newman	FA-11	FA-Dal-11
91 Ladouceur, Louis-Philippe	LS	6-5	255	8	California	FA-05	FA-NO-05

AP Photo/James D Smith

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	88	Dez Bryant
	83	Terrance Williams (R)
WR	19	Miles Austin
	17	Dwayne Harris
LT	77	Tyron Smith
	78	Jermey Parnell
LG	71	Nate Livings
	65	Ronald Leary
C	70	Travis Frederick (R)
	67	Phil Costa
RG	73	Mackenzy Bernadeau
	63	Ryan Cook
RT	68	Doug Free
	78	Jermey Parnell
TE	82	Jason Witten
	89	Gavin Escobar (R)
QB	9	Tony Romo
	18	Kyle Orton
FB	47	Lawrence Vickers
	89	Gavin Escobar (R)
RB	29	DeMarco Murray
	35	Joseph Randle (R)

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	94	DeMarcus Ware
	51	Kyle Wilber
DT	90	Jay Ratliff
	95	Sean Lissemore
DT	97	Jason Hatcher
	70	Tyrone Crawford
DE	93	Anthony Spencer
	70	Tyrone Crawford
WLB	54	Bruce Carter
	52	Justin Durant
MLB	50	Sean Lee
	59	Ernie Sims
SLB	55	Alex Albright
	52	Justin Durant
CB	39	Brandon Carr
	32	Orlando Scandrick
CB	24	Morris Claiborne
	20	B.W. Webb (R)
FS	26	Will Allen
	37	Matt Johnson
SS	42	Barry Church
	40	Danny McCray

SPECIALISTS

K	5	Dan Bailey
P	6	Chris Jones

KR	17	Dwayne Harris
PR	17	Dwayne Harris

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
Dwayne Harris, WR

DEEP-SLEEPER
Terrance Williams, WR

OVERVALUED
DeMarco Murray, RB

TOP ROOKIE
Joseph Randle, RB

BOUNCE-BACK
Sean Lee, LB

TOP IDP
DeMarcus Ware, LB

For more Fantasy, visit **AthlonSports.com/fantasy** or follow **@AthlonSports** on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 8	N.Y. Giants	8:30	9-7	355.4 (14)	383.4 (31)	26.8 (6)	21.5 (12)
2	Sept. 15	at Kansas City	1:00	2-14	319.2 (24)	356.5 (20)	13.2 (32)	26.6 (25)
3	Sept. 22	St. Louis	1:00	7-8	329.0 (23)	342.6 (14)	18.7 (25)	21.8 (14)
4	Sept. 29	at San Diego	4:25	7-9	297.2 (31)	326.4 (9)	21.9 (20)	21.9 (16)
5	Oct. 6	Denver	4:25	13-3	397.9 (4)	290.8 (2)	30.1 (2)	18.1 (4)
6	Oct. 13	Washington	8:30	10-6	383.2 (5)	377.7 (28)	27.2 (4)	24.2 (22)
7	Oct. 20	at Philadelphia	1:00	4-12	354.1 (15)	343.2 (15)	17.5 (29)	27.8 (29)
8	Oct. 27	at Detroit	1:00	4-12	408.8 (3)	341.1 (13)	23.2 (17)	27.3 (27)
9	Nov. 3	Minnesota	1:00	10-6	336.6 (20)	350.0 (16)	23.7 (14)	21.8 (14)
10	Nov. 10	at New Orleans	8:30	7-9	410.9 (2)	440.1 (32)	28.8 (3)	28.4 (31)
11		BYE						
12	Nov. 24	at N.Y. Giants	4:25	9-7	355.4 (14)	383.4 (31)	26.8 (6)	21.5 (12)
13	Nov. 28	Oakland (Thu.)	4:30	4-12	344.0 (18)	354.5 (18)	18.1 (26)	27.7 (28)
14	Dec. 9	at Chicago (Mon.)	8:40	10-6	310.6 (28)	315.6 (5)	23.4 (16)	17.3 (3)
15	Dec. 15	Green Bay	4:25	11-5	359.4 (13)	336.8 (11)	27.1 (5)	21.0 (11)
16	Dec. 22	at Washington	1:00	10-6	383.2 (5)	377.7 (28)	27.2 (4)	24.2 (22)
17	Dec. 29	Philadelphia	1:00	4-12	354.1 (15)	343.2 (15)	17.5 (29)	27.8 (29)

NEW YORK GIANTS

NFC EAST FORECAST **1**

The disappointment that the Giants felt when they missed the playoffs last season, 11 months after winning the Super Bowl, was only matched by their shock and confusion. They were 9–7, which isn't bad. Along the way they beat some of the NFL's best teams. But they also lost to Atlanta and Baltimore in Weeks 15 and 16 by a combined score of 67–14.

Those shocking blowouts set the tone for an offseason of introspection in which the Giants tried to restock for another run in the Tom Coughlin/Eli Manning era. They know that the remaining players and coaches will be hungrier now, and that will certainly help.

But they knew they needed to find something else in the offseason, too. "We need to re-establish that toughness in front," Giants co-owner John Mara says. "Teams ran the ball against us too easily last year. And the offensive line, that performance needs to get a little better, too."

In other words, in an era that may very well be defined by speed and spread-option offenses, the Giants are going back to an old NFL truism: Games are won in the trenches. This season, they're hoping that's true.

See more cheerleaders by visiting AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

THE ORGANIZATION

PRESIDENT/CEO: John Mara
CHAIRMAN/EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT: Steve Tisch
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT/GENERAL MANAGER: Jerry Reese
STADIUM: MetLife Stadium (82,566)
SURFACE: FieldTurf
WEBSITE: www.giants.com
TICKETS: 201-935-8111
TRAINING CAMP: SUNY at Albany (Albany, N.Y.)

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Tom Coughlin
RECORD WITH TEAM: 83-61
CAREER RECORD: 151-121
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Kevin Gilbride
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Perry Fewell

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

VICTOR CRUZ, WR

OFFENSE As long as Manning stays upright — and he's started 146 consecutive regular-season and playoff games — the Giants' offense should be fine. He's so good that a shaky offensive line allowed a league-low 20 sacks last season, and the Giants averaged 26.8 points — sixth in the league — despite a middling rushing attack and a star receiver (Hakeem Nicks) battling a knee injury all year.

Nicks had that knee repaired during the offseason, and the Giants are convinced that if he's healthy, they'll have one of the most explosive offenses in all of football. Victor Cruz is a sensational slot receiver, but Nicks is their most dynamic receiving talent. And with promising young receiver Rueben Randle, they've got a threesome as good as they had when Mario Manningham was in town. And free agent pickup Brandon Myers, who caught 79 passes for 806 yards in Oakland in 2012, should be at least as good at tight end as Martellus Bennett was last season.

As for the middling rushing attack, with the oft-injured Ahmad Bradshaw gone, things are in the sometimes-slippery hands of David Wilson, their uber-explosive first-round pick from last year. Wilson only rushed for 358 yards in 2012, but he averaged a healthy 5.0 yards on his 71 carries. He might be one of the fastest players on the team, and he'll receive support in the power department from Andre Brown.

The Giants return their entire offensive line from last year, but injuries and age are catching up to this veteran group. Three of the returning starters had offseason surgeries. Four will be over 30 when camp starts. The talent is there, but the Giants are crossing their fingers that the old gang will be able to hold together for one more year before the rebuilding starts in 2014.

DEFENSE Perry Fewell's defense was a big reason for the Giants' Super Bowl XLVII run, and perhaps the biggest culprit for the 2012 collapse. It was a disaster from front to back. It couldn't stop the run. The coverage at times was terrible. And what once was a fierce pass rush was filled with players who looked old, tired and done. That miserable combination had them ranked 31st in the league.

What's different this year? Not much other than the losses of several key players, including pass-rush specialist Osi Umenyiora. The Giants did beef up the middle of their defensive line, signing ex-Eagles defensive tackles Cullen Jenkins and Mike Patterson. But other than plugging in ex-Cowboy Dan Connor at middle linebacker and bringing back Aaron Ross as the third or fourth corner, they didn't do much.

What they're counting on is that everyone will play better. They believe defensive end Justin Tuck, an aging warrior, has one last good season in him. They believe end Jason Pierre-Paul, after seeing his sack numbers fall off the cliff last year, can return to his dominant form. And they believe the defensive line will get a boost from Mathias Kiwanuka joining the fun after being miscast as a linebacker for several years.

From there, they pray that everything will fall into place. The Giants believe that everything starts up front — that if the defensive linemen can stop the run and rush the passer, their defense will be good again. Last year was a reminder of what can happen when their front line disappears.

Manning, Cruz: Athlon Sports; Fan: AP photo / Jim Mahoney

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

29 years and counting The Giants will have three new starting linebackers this season, making it all the more surprising that they didn't draft a single linebacker in the 2013 draft. That continued their run of having not selected a linebacker in the first round since they took Carl Banks way back in 1984.

Unkind cut Two long-time Giants — and two-time Super Bowl champions — barely hung on to their jobs this offseason and likely wouldn't have if they hadn't each agreed to a massive pay cut. Cornerback Corey Webster had his salary cut by $3 million and right tackle David Diehl had his cut by $3.475 million. Both are now undoubtedly in their final year with the team.

Same old Coughlin Giants coach Tom Coughlin went on a busy, three-day "book tour" in March promoting his new tome, *Earn the Right to Win*. It's a how-to leadership book that outlines the principles Coughlin holds dear. While on the tour, he often recounted the story of how he famously changed his personality after a tumultuous 2006 season, though he admits he didn't change his core at all. "I never changed my values or my principles," he said. "But I did change how we went about it. I did do things that allowed for people to understand that 'You know what? He's not coaching in the '80s anymore. This is now a new century.'"

Seeing red The Giants are a superstitious organization, which is why it was so surprising when they messed with tradition in 2004 by unveiling an "alternate" red jersey. The result: A dismal, 1–3 record in those ugly uniforms. So this year, when Nike told them to come up with an "alternate" uniform, they took a subtle approach. They'll go to white pants instead of their traditional gray for one game.

Take a seat and hold it Poor Ryan Nassib. First the Syracuse quarterback was thinking he'd go in the first round of the draft. Then his old Syracuse coach Doug Marrone, now with the Buffalo Bills, passed him over for Florida State's EJ Manuel. Then the Giants grabbed him in Round 4, and GM Jerry Reese promptly welcomed him to the NFL by saying: "If he doesn't ever play, that would be great." The worst, though, is yet to come. He's a rookie in the quarterback room of the Giants' best practical joker, Eli Manning. "There will be some down time when we'll figure out ways to enjoy a rookie quarterback," Manning warns.

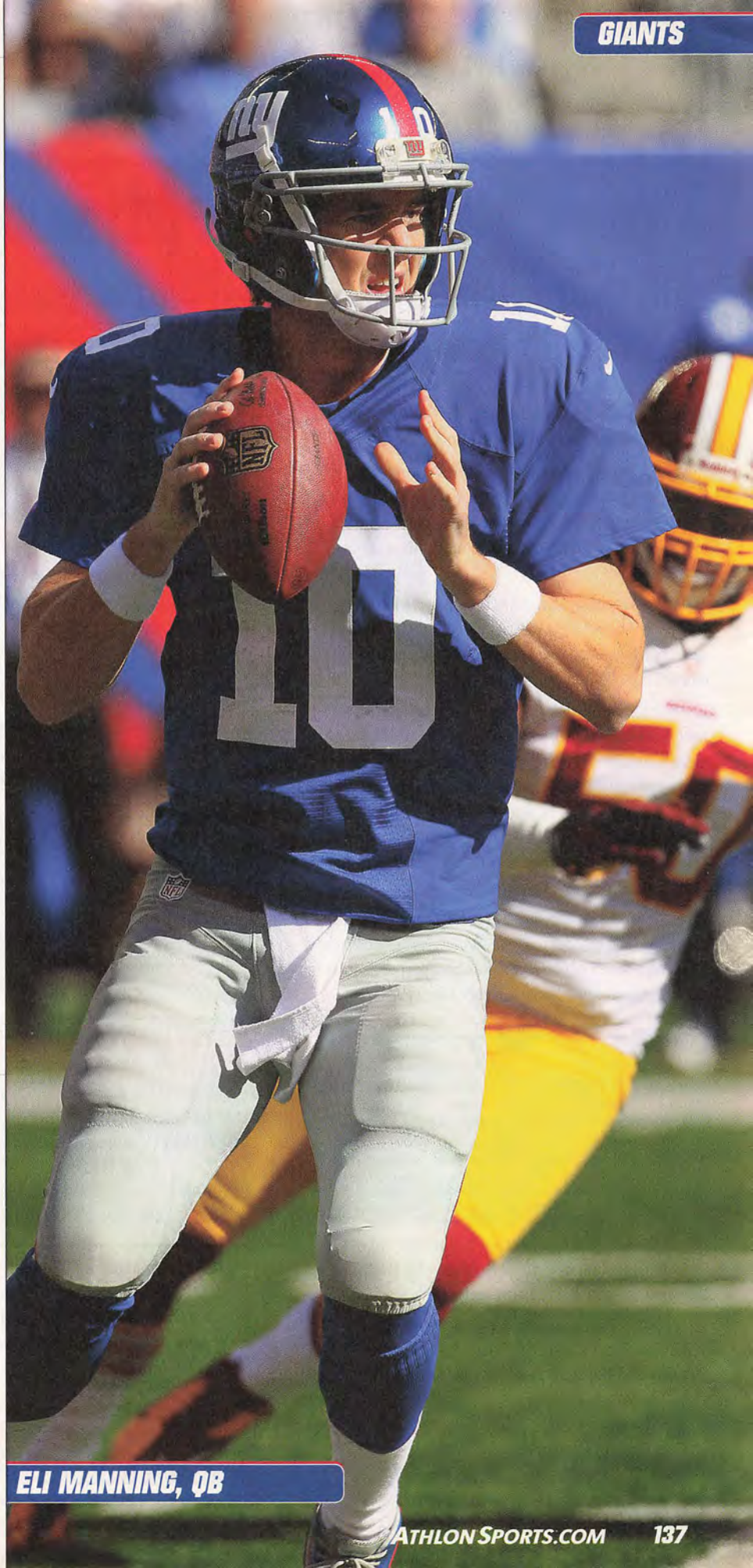
PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
K	Josh Brown	Cincinnati
LB	Dan Connor	Dallas
DT	Cullen Jenkins	Philadelphia
TE	Brandon Myers	Oakland
DT	Mike Patterson	Philadelphia
CB	Aaron Ross	Jacksonville

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
TE	Martellus Bennett	Chicago
LB	Chase Blackburn	Carolina
LB	Michael Boley	Free Agent
RB	Ahmad Bradshaw	Free Agent
DT	Chris Canty	Baltimore
WR	Domenik Hixon	Carolina
S	Kenny Phillips	Philadelphia
K	Lawrence Tynes	Free Agent
DE	Osi Umenyiora	Atlanta



ELI MANNING, QB

A revelation and a destination from Wayne Allyn Root

Sometimes I'm on a Roll, *but* I'm Always on a Mission.

And that mission is to make you more money than you ever made before on football!

You've seen me on TV. Or profiled in business magazines – always surrounded by so much praise you probably think it's hype. ***Who IS this guy? Is he for real?***

Now you're going to get your answer and you will like it. Because, yes, I am that Wayne Root. I have sought media attention. But I'm On A Mission: to pick more winners and make more money for my customers than anybody that ever lived!

And I'm succeeding. I have been at or near the top every year since I started. And I keep getting better! My job doesn't get easier. It gets tougher because I demand more and more of myself for my customers.

Last year for the 8th time in 9 years, I released more outright upset winners than anybody in football: 74! No, I don't mean COVERS – I give you those all the time. I mean outright upsets where you Can bet the money line and collect at ODDS, cashing $200, $300, $400 – even $800 on a $100 bet! I released 74 such money making monsters last year, 66 in '11, 71 in '10 and 82 in '09 no one in football comes within miles of me. But then you, knew that that.

Now how would you like to play my nifty covers, my *back-door covers and my dogs-that-win- straight-up - and cash the safest, biggest bets of your life!* I mean my Upset Club. It makes the most sense because it makes the most dollars. Look how we exploded off the snap in Weeks 1 & 2 last year:

WE STARTED WITH A BANG!			WE ENDED WITH A BANG!		
8/30 Vandy +6½ SC	13-17	W	9/8 W. Forest +10½ NC	28-17	W
8/30 BYU -12 Wash St	30-6	W	9/8 Missou +2 Georgia	20-41	L
8/31 Mich St -6½ Boise St	17-13	L	9/8 N'western +3½ Vandy	23-13	W
9/1 Col St +6½ Colorado	22-17	W	9/9 Rams +9 Lions	23-27	W
9/3 GA Tech +7½ Vir Tech	17-20	W	9/9 Chiefs +3 Falcons	24-40	L
9/5 Cowboys (+4) Giants	24-17	W	9/9 Cards +3 S'hawks	20-16	W
9/6 Pitt +4½ Cincinnati	10-34	L	9/9 Buccs +2½ Panthers	16-10	W

NOTE: Every pick I make is submitted (and time stamped via e-mail) to The Sports Monitor for independent documentation & verification

10-4 WOW! That was our total for the first two weeks. I couldn't maintain that win percentage - **71.4% for the whole season.** But I do seem to rise to the occasion.

Over that same span we won our September Upset Game of the Year (Washington [+7] Stanford 17-13) and our NFL Game of the Month (Seattle [+3½] Cowboys 17-7).

You get an edge betting dogs. Popular favorites are almost always overpriced. Dogs have the edge in incentive. And think about this: once the favorite establishes a lead, they tend to play conservative, which makes back door covers more likely - another reason **Upset Club is the way to go!** Which makes it perfect for the value shopper ambitious to move up the ladder. *Is that you?*

Then here's the deal: Call me at **1-877-ROOT WINS** (1-877-766-8946) or visit me at **www.RootToWin.com** every game day and I will give you:

My Best Thursday Play (We were **7-0** on Thursdays August 9 to October 4)

Saturday: My strongest **Outright Upset Winner** – a dog that will win straight up! Plus my 2 second strongest COVERS of the day

Sunday, *same deal:* an **Outright Upset Winner** plus my second and even my third strongest COVER. *(From time to time, where the dog isn't strong enough, I may give you a favorite)*

Monday Night Football is included. We won our Monday Night Game of the Year with Saints (-3) Eagles 28-13

And the program comes with a GUARANTEE!

Play my Upset Club for 5 weeks for **just $150 You must net $3,000 (based on $100 unit bets)** or you get the next 5 weeks **FREE.**

Or, order all 18 weeks for **$349** –a savings of $200 over the regular season's price.

And yes, the Pre-Season is included! Add it up. It's the best deal anybody ever offered you. ***Nothing beats dogs that win straight up and NOBODY BEATS Wayne Allyn Root at finding them.***

I'm Wayne Allyn Root. I've been called the King of Vegas, the only handicapper with his own star on the **Las Vegas Walk of Fame.** Over the years I have picked more winners than anyone that ever lived. That's why business publications like the ***Wall Street Journal, Fortune, Robb Report***, and ***Millionaire*** find my story so compelling. I have taken the iffiness out of sports betting and with my famous record of picking winners, you can turn a hobby into a lifestyle! – *something to think about!*

"Wayne Allyn Root is the face of Las Vegas Gaming…He has built a talent for picking football winners into an empire."
LAS VEGAS SUN

"Wayne Allyn Root is an American gambling legend."
JOHN O'REILLY, LADBROKES, WORLD'S LARGEST LEGAL BOOKMAKER.

"Wayne's success is mind-blowing."
FOX NEWS. LAS VEGAS

"The Odds King of Las Vegas."
BILL GRIFFITH, CNBC

"The Odds-maker of everything in the world"
DONNY DEUTSCH, CNBC

"Wayne's the king of handicappers …he's the Warren Buffett of his world."
JAMES J. CRAMER, CNBC
MAD MONEY

Call now **1-877-ROOT-WINS** That's **1-877-766-8946**

Or enroll at: **www.RootToWin.com**

WAYNE ALLYN ROOT 1027 South Rainbow Blvd. ■ #605F ■ Las Vegas Nevada 89145

Every Wayne Allyn Root selection is documented by The Sports Monitor, the Dun and Bradstreet of our industry.

2012 RESULTS (9–7)

Sept. 5	Dallas	L	17–24
Sept. 16	Tampa Bay	W	41–34
Sept. 20	at Carolina	W	36–7
Sept. 30	at Philadelphia	L	17–19
Oct. 7	Cleveland	W	41–27
Oct. 14	at San Francisco	W	26–3
Oct. 21	Washington	W	27–23
Oct. 28	at Dallas	W	29–24
Nov. 4	Pittsburgh	L	20–24
Nov. 11	at Cincinnati	L	13–31
Nov. 25	Green Bay	W	38–10
Dec. 3	at Washington	L	16–17
Dec. 9	New Orleans	W	52–27
Dec. 16	at Atlanta	L	0–34
Dec. 23	at Baltimore	L	14–33
Dec. 30	Philadelphia	W	42–7

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Eli Manning	536	321	3,948	26	15
David Carr	3	2	19	0	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Ahmad Bradshaw	221	1,015	4.6	6
Andre Brown	73	385	5.3	8
David Wilson	71	358	5.0	4

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Victor Cruz	86	1,092	12.7	10
Martellus Bennett	55	626	11.4	5
Hakeem Nicks	53	692	13.1	3
Domenik Hixon	39	567	14.5	2
Ahmad Bradshaw	23	245	10.7	0

KICKING: Lawrence Tynes, 33-39 FGs, 46-46 XPs, 145 points
TACKLES: Chase Blackburn, 98; Antrel Rolle, 96
SACKS: Jason Pierre-Paul, 6.5; Osi Umenyiora, 6
INTERCEPTIONS: Stevie Brown, 8; Corey Webster 4
FORCED FUMBLES: Chase Blackburn, 4

2012 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	355.4	14	10
Rushing	116.4	14	8
Passing	239.1	12	7
Scoring	26.8	6	4
Third Down %	40.6	11	7
Punt Returns	7.2	30	15
Kick Returns	26.2	T6	3

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	383.4	31	15
Rushing	129.1	25	14
Passing	254.2	28	13
Scoring	21.5	T12	6
Interceptions	21	T3	T3
Sacks	33.0	22	11
Turnover Differential	+14	4	3

Rolle: Peter Brouillet; Pugh: Danny Murphy

SPECIALISTS The Giants have a solid, veteran pair of kickers, though it's slightly different from a year ago. Gone is the clutch leg of kicker Lawrence Tynes, and in his place is veteran Josh Brown. If there's a drop-off, it should be negligible. Steve Weatherford remains the punter and continues to be an underappreciated weapon who is a terrific directional punter and a master at handling the swirling Meadowlands winds.

The return game is a bit of an unknown, though. Wilson is a huge threat on kickoff returns — one of the most dangerous in the NFL. But with his increased role at running back, it's unclear how much the Giants will use him on special teams. They don't appear to have anyone else in his class. As for punt returns, Randle figures to get the first shot, though it depends on how he holds onto the ball. Coughlin values ball-security above all else. He's not looking for a lot of yards — he just doesn't want the ball to end up on the ground.

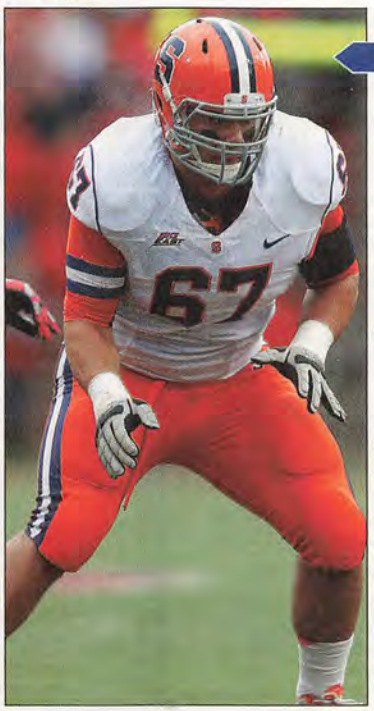
FINAL ANALYSIS As bad as last year was — and it probably felt worse than it looked — the Giants were still 9–7 and in the playoff hunt until the final day. They haven't gotten worse, so there's no reason to believe they won't be a contender again. They are going to score a lot of points, and probably will until Manning retires.

What separates this team from other contenders, though, is its defense. It was 31st last season and doesn't look much better now. Unless Tuck can rediscover his youth, the pass rush can't be better now that Umenyiora is in Atlanta. Pierre-Paul probably will return to form, but the defensive front doesn't have the fear factor of the Giants' last two Super Bowl teams.

So expect the Giants to be fun to watch. Expect them to beat some of the best teams in the NFL, and also to suffer some inexcusable losses. In other words, expect these Giants to look a lot like the confusing, maddening version from 2012. They are capable of great things — including the playoffs and a run to the Super Bowl — but it's far from certain they'll have enough consistency to reach their potential.

NFL DRAFT 2013 GIANTS IN THE DRAFT

B+



RD PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1. Justin Pugh	T	6-4	301	Syracuse
2. Johnathan Hankins	DT	6-2	320	Ohio State
3. Damontre' Moore	DE	6-5	250	Texas A&M
4. Ryan Nassib	QB	6-2	227	Syracuse
5. Cooper Taylor	S	6-4	228	Richmond
7. Eric Herman	G	6-4	320	Ohio
7. Michael Cox	RB	6-3	214	UMass

The Giants didn't use their draft to address immediate needs, focusing on projected long-term starters instead. But the first few picks could see some playing time this season. Justin Pugh will at least compete for the starting left tackle job, and Johnathan Hankins and Damontre' Moore are locks to see at least limited time in the defensive line rotation. It may be 15-20 snaps per game, but it'll be enough to make their presence felt. Cooper Taylor is the wild card for 2013. He could push for the third safety spot, which is a big part of the Giants' defensive scheme. Ryan Nassib was thought by some to be a first-round talent. The Giants were happy to snap him up in the fourth round. Watch for this class in 2014 when many of them could have clear paths to starting jobs.

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
8 Carr, David	QB	6-3	212	11	Fresno State	FA-11	D1-Hou-02
10 Manning, Eli	QB	6-4	218	9	Ole Miss	T-SD-04	D1-SD-04
17 Painter, Curtis	QB	6-4	230	2	Purdue	FA-13	D6-Ind-09
RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
35 Brown, Andre	RB	6-0	227	3	NC State	FA-11	D4-NYG-09
45 Hynoski, Henry	FB	6-1	266	2	Pittsburgh	FA-11	FA-NYG-11
33 Scott, Da'Rel	RB	5-11	210	2	Maryland	D7-11	D7-NYG-11
41 Torain, Ryan	RB	6-0	220	4	Arizona State	FA-12	D5-Den-08
22 Wilson, David	RB	5-9	205	1	Virginia Tech	D1-12	D1-NYG-12
RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
89 Adams, Kris	WR	6-3	194	2	UTEP	FA-13	FA-Chi-11
80 Cruz, Victor	WR	6-0	204	3	Massachusetts	FA-10	FA-NYG-10
46 Donnell, Larry	TE	6-6	269	1	Grambling	FA-12	FA-NYG-12
12 Jernigan, Jerrel	WR	5-8	189	2	Troy	D3-11	D3-NYG-11
83 Myers, Brandon	TE	6-3	256	4	Iowa	FA-Oak-13	D6b-Oak-09
18 Murphy, Louis	WR	6-2	200	4	Florida State	FA-Car-13	D4-Oak-09
88 Nicks, Hakeem	WR	6-1	208	4	North Carolina	D1-09	D1-NYG-09
86 Pascoe, Bear	TE	6-5	283	4	Fresno State	FA-09	D6-SF-09
82 Randle, Rueben	WR	6-2	208	1	LSU	D2-12	D2-NYG-12
81 Robinson, Adrien	TE	6-4	264	1	Cincinnati	D4-12	D4-NYG-12
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
62 Adcock, Levy	G	6-6	342	1	Oklahoma State	FA-12	FA-Dal-12
64 Baas, David	C	6-4	312	8	Michigan	FA-SF-11	D2-SF-05
65 Beatty, Will	T	6-6	319	4	Connecticut	D2-09	D2-NYG-09
77 Boothe, Kevin	G	6-5	320	7	Cornell	W-Oak-07	D6-Oak-06
73 Brewer, James	T	6-6	330	2	Indiana	D4-11	D4-NYG-11
60 Capers, Selvish	OL	6-5	315	1	West Virginia	FA-12	D7-Was-10
63 Cordle, Jim	C	6-3	320	2	Ohio State	FA-10	FA-NYG-10
66 Diehl, David	T	6-5	304	10	Illinois	D5-03	D5-NYG-03
79 Goodin, Stephen	G	6-6	310	1	Nebraska-Kearney	FA-12	FA-NYG-12
71 McCants, Matt	T	6-5	309	1	UAB	D6-12	D6-NYG-12
67 Mosley, Brandon	G	6-5	318	1	Auburn	D4-12	D4-NYG-12
76 Snee, Chris	G	6-3	305	9	Boston College	D2-04	D2-NYG-04
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
96 Austin, Marvin	DT	6-2	312	2	North Carolina	D2-11	D2-NYG-11
54 Broha, Matt	DE	6-4	255	1	Louisiana Tech	FA-12	FA-NYG-12
99 Jenkins, Cullen	DT	6-2	305	9	Central Michigan	FA-Phi-13	FA-GB-03
97 Joseph, Linval	DT	6-4	323	3	East Carolina	D2-10	D2-NYG-10
94 Kiwanuka, Mathias	DE	6-5	267	7	Boston College	D1-06	D1-NYG-06
78 Kuhn, Markus	DT	6-4	299	1	NC State	D7-12	D7-NYG-12
71 Ojomo, Adewale	DE	6-4	270	1	Miami	FA-12	FA-NYG-12
93 Patterson, Mike	DT	6-1	300	8	USC	FA-Phi-13	D1-Phi-05
90 Pierre-Paul, Jason	DE	6-5	278	3	South Florida	D1-10	D1-NYG-10
73 Rogers, Shaun	DT	6-4	350	12	Texas	FA-12	D2-Det-01
98 Tracy, Adrian	DE	6-2	245	2	William & Mary	D6-10	D6-NYG-10
69 Trattou, Justin	DE	6-4	255	2	Florida	FA-11	FA-NYG-11
91 Tuck, Justin	DE	6-5	268	8	Notre Dame	D3-05	D3-NYG-05
LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
53 Connor, Dan	LB	6-2	241	5	Penn State	FA-Car-12	D3b-Car-08
58 Herzlich, Mark	LB	6-4	246	2	Boston College	FA-11	FA-NYG-11
52 Paysinger, Spencer	LB	6-2	236	2	Oregon	FA-11	FA-NYG-11
55 Rivers, Keith	LB	6-2	235	4	USC	T-Cin-12	D1-Cin-08
57 Williams, Jacquian	LB	6-3	224	2	South Florida	D6-11	D6-NYG-11
DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
20 Amukamara, Prince	CB	6-0	207	2	Nebraska	D1-11	D1-NYG-11
27 Brown, Stevie	S	5-11	221	3	Michigan	FA-Ind-12	D7-Oak-10
36 Frederick, Terrence	CB	5-10	187	1	Texas A&M	FA-12	D7-Pit-12
25 Hill, Will	S	6-1	207	1	Florida	FA-12	FA-NYG-12
28 Hosley, Jayron	CB	5-10	178	1	Virginia Tech	D3-12	D3-NYG-12
21 Mundy, Ryan	S	6-1	209	4	West Virginia	FA-Pit-13	D6b-Pit-08
26 Rolle, Antrel	S	6-0	206	8	Miami	FA-10	D1-Ari-05
31 Ross, Aaron	CB	6-0	197	6	Texas	FA-Jac-13	D1-NYG-07
39 Sash, Tyler	S	6-0	215	2	Iowa	D6-11	D6-NYG-11
24 Thomas, Terrell	CB	6-0	191	5	USC	D2-08	D2-NYG-08
23 Webster, Corey	CB	6-0	200	8	LSU	D2-05	D2-NYG-05
SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
3 Brown, Josh	K	6-0	202	10	Nebraska	FA-Cin-13	D7-Sea-07
19 Buehler, David	K	6-2	230	3	USC	FA-13	D5-Dal-09
51 DeOssie, Zak	LS	6-4	249	6	Brown	D4-07	D4-NYG-07
2 Rogers, Jake	K	6-2	203	1	Cincinnati	FA-13	FA-NO-11
5 Weatherford, Steve	P	6-2	211	7	Illinois	FA-11	FA-NO-06

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	80	Victor Cruz
	18	Louis Murphy
WR	88	Hakeem Nicks
	82	Rueben Randle
LT	65	Will Beatty
		Justin Pugh (R)
LG	77	Kevin Boothe
	60	Selvish Capers
C	64	David Baas
	63	Jim Cordle
RG	76	Chris Snee
	67	Brandon Mosley
RT	66	David Diehl
	73	James Brewer
TE	83	Brandon Myers
	81	Adrien Robinson
QB	10	Eli Manning
	8	David Carr
RB	22	David Wilson
	35	Andre Brown
FB	45	Henry Hynoski

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	90	Jason Pierre-Paul
		Damontre' Moore (R)
DT	97	Linval Joseph
		Johnathan Hankins (R)
DT	99	Cullen Jenkins
	93	Mike Patterson
DE	91	Justin Tuck
	94	Mathias Kiwanuka
SLB	55	Keith Rivers
	52	Spencer Paysinger
MLB	53	Dan Connor
	58	Mark Herzlich
WLB	57	Jacquian Williams
	52	Spencer Paysinger
CB	23	Corey Webster
	28	Jayron Hosley
CB	20	Prince Amukamara
	31	Aaron Ross
SS	27	Stevie Brown
	21	Ryan Mundy
FS	26	Antrel Rolle
	25	Will Hill

SPECIALISTS

K	3	Josh Brown
P	5	Steve Weatherford

KR	22	David Wilson
PR	82	Rueben Randle

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
Andre Brown, RB

DEEP-SLEEPER
Louis Murphy, WR

OVERVALUED
Brandon Myers, TE

TOP ROOKIE
Damontre' Moore, DE

BOUNCE-BACK
Hakeem Nicks, WR

TOP IDP
Jason Pierre-Paul, DE

For more Fantasy, visit **AthlonSports.com/fantasy** or follow **@AthlonSports** on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 8	at Dallas	8:30	8-8	374.6 (6)	355.4 (19)	23.5 (15)	25.0 (24)
2	Sept. 15	Denver	4:25	13-3	397.9 (4)	290.8 (2)	30.1 (2)	18.1 (4)
3	Sept. 22	at Carolina	1:00	7-9	360.7 (12)	333.1 (10)	22.3 (T18)	22.7 (18)
4	Sept. 29	at Kansas City	1:00	2-14	319.2 (24)	356.5 (20)	13.2 (32)	26.6 (25)
5	Oct. 6	Philadelphia	1:00	4-12	354.1 (15)	343.2 (15)	17.5 (29)	27.8 (T29)
6	Oct. 10	at Chicago (Thu.)	8:25	10-6	310.6 (28)	315.6 (5)	23.4 (16)	17.3 (3)
7	Oct. 21	Minnesota (Mon.)	8:40	10-6	336.6 (20)	350.0 (16)	23.7 (14)	21.8 (T14)
8	Oct. 27	at Philadelphia	1:00	4-12	354.1 (15)	343.2 (15)	17.5 (29)	27.8 (T29)
9		BYE						
10	Nov. 10	Oakland	1:00	4-12	344.0 (18)	354.5 (18)	18.1 (26)	27.7 (28)
11	Nov. 17	Green Bay	8:30	11-5	359.4 (13)	336.8 (11)	27.1 (5)	21.0 (11)
12	Nov. 24	Dallas	4:25	8-8	374.6 (6)	355.4 (19)	23.5 (15)	25.0 (24)
13	Dec. 1	at Washington	8:30	10-6	383.2 (5)	377.7 (28)	27.2 (4)	24.2 (22)
14	Dec. 8	at San Diego	4:25	7-9	297.2 (31)	326.4 (9)	21.9 (20)	21.9 (16)
15	Dec. 15	Seattle	1:00	11-5	350.6 (17)	306.2 (4)	25.8 (9)	15.3 (1)
16	Dec. 22	at Detroit	4:05	4-12	408.8 (3)	341.1 (13)	23.2 (17)	27.3 (27)
17	Dec. 29	Washington	1:00	10-6	383.2 (5)	377.7 (28)	27.2 (4)	24.2 (22)

Peter Brouillet

ATHLON SPORTS

DOWNLOAD THE ATHLON SPORTS APP TODAY

Comprehensive editorial coverage on the teams that matter to you.

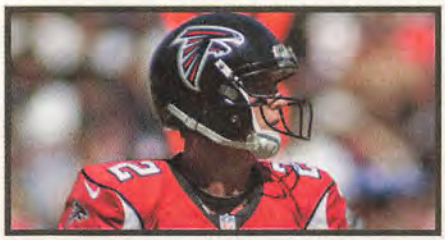
The latest news and scores from around the sports world.

All of your favorite Athlon Sports content in one place. Includes AthlonSports.com articles, monthly features from our award winning magazine and our renowned preseason analysis.

Available on the App Store

MONTHLY
SCORES
MY TEAMS
Packers Vs Seahawks: Green Bay Robbed by Replacement Referees
2012 Fantasy Football Waiver Wire: Week 4
HOTTEST HOLIDAY GIFTS
2012 Holiday Gift Guide for Sports Fans
10 Biggest Sports Turkeys of 2012
ASK ATHLO
Has any major league baseball player ever come back to the team...
New York Giants Injury Update: Ahmad Bradshaw and Hakeem...
New York Giants vs. Carolina Panthers Preview and Prediction
2012 Fantasy Football Positional Rankings: Week 3

VISIT US ONLINE:
WWW.ATHLONSPORTS.COM



» NFL FEATURES

Weekly NFL Power Rankings, Game Previews & More

» BREAKING NEWS

NFL news as it happens

» FANTASY FOOTBALL

Preseason picks and insightful in-season advice

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

NFC EAST FORECAST **3**

See more cheerleaders by visiting
AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

THE ORGANIZATION

CHAIRMAN/CEO: Jeffrey Lurie
GENERAL MANAGER: Howie Roseman
SENIOR FOOTBALL ADVISOR: Tom Donahoe
STADIUM: Lincoln Financial Field (68,532)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.philadelphiaeagles.com
TICKETS: 215-463-5500
TRAINING CAMP: NovaCare Training Complex (Philadelphia, Pa.)

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Chip Kelly
RECORD WITH TEAM: 0-0
CAREER RECORD: 0-0
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Pat Shurmur
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Bill Davis

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2008	9
2009	11
2010	10
2011	8
2012	4

Playoffs

They could be terrible. They could be OK. There is even a small chance they will be very good. The only thing certain about the Philadelphia Eagles in 2013 is that they will be different. Very different.

After 14 years, Andy Reid is off to Kansas City. Chip Kelly, the quick-thinking, fast-talking enigma who breathed high-scoring life into the Oregon football program, has taken his place. Nobody — not Kelly, not the Eagles, not the sharpest NFL observer — knows how this will turn out.

Will Kelly be another Pete Carroll or John Harbaugh, making the leap from college to excel in the NFL? Or will he be another Steve Spurrier or Bobby Petrino, overmatched and quickly sent back to the college ranks?

The early signs were mixed. Kelly opted to retain Michael Vick, the 33-year-old symbol of Reid's final, futile years. But he also kept the immobile Nick Foles and added USC's Matt Barkley in the draft. What do those contradictory moves say about Kelly's offensive scheme? Kelly hired NFL lifer Bill Davis to run his defense, but neither the head coach nor the coordinator would commit to the kind of scheme they plan to run.

MICHAEL VICK, QB

OFFENSE However he deploys them, Kelly at least starts off with some legitimate NFL playmakers at his disposal. Running backs LeSean McCoy, Felix Jones and Bryce Brown, wide receivers DeSean Jackson and Jeremy Maclin and tight ends Brent Celek, James Casey and rookie Zach Ertz give Kelly the opportunity to create all kinds of mismatches.

He also begins with a solid, potentially excellent offensive line. A disaster area last year because of injuries, the line immediately improves with the return of Pro Bowl left tackle Jason Peters, veteran Todd Herremans and center Jason Kelce. First-round pick Lane Johnson should start at right tackle, allowing Herremans to return to guard. That would make for an athletic, agile unit able to push the tempo and get out into the second level, as Kelly likes.

The most pressing issue is just who this line will be protecting. With his mobility, Vick is the closest to the style of quarterback Kelly won with at Oregon. But Vick is injury- and turnover-prone. He started only 10 games last year, winning three of them. He threw 10 interceptions and fumbled the ball 11 times. He goes into the season on a one-year contract, which suggests he won't be the quarterback by the time Kelly's program peaks.

Foles had his moments as a rookie in relief of Vick. His release is as quick as his feet are slow, though, making him a terrible fit for a read-option offense. But Kelly has steadfastly insisted he can shape his offense around Foles. That position was reinforced when he drafted Barkley, the former USC star who dropped to the fourth round.

"We're an equal opportunity scoring offense," Kelly says, "whether we throw it across the line or run it across the line. If we can wing it, we'll wing it."

Accuracy is the quality Kelly values most in a quarterback. That would seem to favor Foles and even Barkley over Vick. But Vick can move, and that is almost indispensable in the modern NFL. How will it play out? If he were under pressure to win right away, Kelly might have to go with Vick. With a little leeway to build his program, expect him to focus on developing Foles and Barkley. There is always the 2014 draft if neither steps up.

DEFENSE If the quarterback situation is a puzzle, at least there are pieces. Davis will be trying to create a defense almost entirely from scratch. Chances are, the entire starting secondary will be different. In free agency, the Eagles signed cornerbacks Cary Williams and Bradley Fletcher, along with safeties Kenny Phillips and Patrick Chung. All but Williams have dealt with recent injuries, but that still makes them less dubious than the Nnamdi Asomugha-led secondary that allowed 33 touchdown passes in 2012.

Davis is expected to run a variation of the 4-3 under scheme he has used in previous stops. The alignment can look like a 3-4, and sometimes the personnel will line up in a true 3-4. The scheme will ultimately accommodate the players.

Up front, that means 2012 first rounder Fletcher Cox will be either a tackle or a 3-technique end. Veteran Isaac Sopoaga and rookie Bennie Logan will line up at nose tackle. Beyond that, a group of players — Trent Cole, Brandon Graham, Vinny Curry — will either be ends or outside linebackers, depending upon scheme, skill and situation. Of the three, Cole has the most experience as a pure edge-rusher while Graham is most likely to evolve into a linebacker capable of dropping into coverage as well as getting after the quarterback.

Bruce Schwartzman

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Waking from the dream When the Eagles let cornerbacks Nnamdi Asomugha and Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie walk as free agents, the last vestiges of the nightmare 2011 "Dream Team" went with them. Coming out of the lockout that year, the Eagles loaded up for a championship run. They signed Asomugha, the premier free agent on the market, and traded for DRC. Since then, the team has gone 12–20, and coach Andy Reid was fired.

Decamping from Lehigh Throughout their history, the Eagles always spent summers at a nearby college campus. For 17 years, they trained at Lehigh in Bethlehem, Pa. Those camps gave fans a chance to spend a day in close proximity to the players, at no cost. With Chip Kelly replacing Andy Reid, the team decided to hold its 2013 camp at its regular-season training facility. There will be a few open practices at Lincoln Financial Field, but for the most part, the team will practice at the NovaCare Complex.

Getting Chip-shape Kelly may not bring those ever-changing Oregon uniforms to the NFL, but he made an immediate mark on how things are done in Philadelphia. First, he reorganized the locker room. Players no longer are grouper by position. A linebacker may have a locker between a kicker and a wide receiver. Second, Kelly hired a sports science coach for his 22-man staff. As players leave the field after practice, they grab individually designed smoothies on their way to the locker room. Each drink is crafted to help players regain lost vitamins and minerals. Third, Kelly's up-tempo practices are accompanied by a soundtrack. The coach picks the music.

Bear-baiting the media First-round draft pick Lane Johnson fessed up on his first day in Philadelphia. Those stories about him wrestling black bears on his uncle's ranch in Texas? They were tall tales, spun for fun by Johnson himself. But Johnson's true story is nearly as unbelievable. A high school and junior college quarterback, he went to Oklahoma as a tight end. As he continued to grow, he moved to the defensive line and finally to offensive tackle. The secret: Johnson has been known to eat 20 hamburgers or up to three dozen eggs at a single sitting.

If you can't beat 'em In his last two years at Oregon, Chip Kelly's team lost just three times — to Stanford, LSU and USC. In his first draft with the Eagles, Kelly's team selected players from Stanford (Zach Ertz), LSU (Bennie Logan) and USC (Matt Barkley). "Just a unique coincidence," Kelly said.

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
OLB	Connor Barwin	Houston
TE	James Casey	Houston
S	Patrick Chung	New England
CB	Bradley Fletcher	St. Louis
P	Donnie Jones	Houston
RB	Felix Jones	Dallas
S	Kenny Phillips	N.Y. Giants
DT	Isaac Sopoaga	San Francisco
CB	Cary Williams	Baltimore

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
CB	Nnamdi Asomugha	San Francisco
DT	Cullen Jenkins	N.Y. Giants
DT	Mike Patterson	N.Y. Giants
CB	Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie	Denver

LESEAN MCCOY, RB

2012 RESULTS (4–12)

Sept. 9	at Cleveland	W	17–16
Sept. 16	Baltimore	W	24–23
Sept. 23	at Arizona	L	6–27
Sept. 30	N.Y. Giants	W	19–17
Oct. 7	at Pittsburgh	L	14–16
Oct. 14	Detroit (ot)	L	23–26
Oct. 28	Atlanta	L	17–30
Nov. 5	at New Orleans	L	13–28
Nov. 11	Dallas	L	23–38
Nov. 18	at Washington	L	6–31
Nov. 26	Carolina	L	22–30
Dec. 2	at Dallas	L	33–38
Dec. 9	at Tampa Bay	W	23–21
Dec. 13	Cincinnati	L	13–34
Dec. 23	Washington	L	20–27
Dec. 30	at N.Y. Giants	L	7–42

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Michael Vick	351	204	2,362	12	10
Nick Foles	265	161	1,699	6	5

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
LeSean McCoy	200	840	4.2	2
Bryce Brown	115	564	4.9	4
Michael Vick	62	332	5.4	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Jeremy Maclin	69	857	12.4	7
Brent Celek	57	684	12.0	1
LeSean McCoy	54	373	6.9	3
Jason Avant	53	648	12.2	0
DeSean Jackson	45	700	15.6	2

KICKING: Alex Henery, 27-31 FGs, 25-26 XPs, 106 points

TACKLES: DeMeco Ryans, 113; Kurt Coleman, 93

SACKS: Three players tied with 5.5

INTERCEPTIONS: D. Rodgers-Cromartie, 3; Kurt Coleman, 2

FORCED FUMBLES: Three players tied with 2

2012 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	354.1	15	11
Rushing	117.1	13	7
Passing	236.9	13	8
Scoring	17.5	29	15
Third Down %	37.4	18	9
Punt Returns	10.3	T12	4
Kick Returns	21.0	T26	T11

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	343.2	15	9
Rushing	126.3	23	13
Passing	216.9	9	5
Scoring	27.8	T29	15
Interceptions	7	T31	15
Sacks	30.0	T25	T13
Turnover Differential	-24	T31	16

Connor Barwin, a free agent pickup from Houston, will be relied on to rush the passer from the weak-side linebacker spot. DeMeco Ryans, arguably the team's best defensive player as a middle linebacker last season, will bring his savvy and toughness to one inside spot. Mychal Kendricks, who had solid games early in his rookie season, is likely to be the other inside backer. Combined, they bring some much-needed physicality to the middle of the defense.

But there are many more questions than answers on this side. It will be a huge challenge for Davis to shape this group into a cohesive unit.

DESEAN JACKSON

SPECIALISTS Donnie Jones, who averaged 47.2 yards — with a net of 40.5 — last year in Houston, will shore up a position that was one of the Eagles' many trouble spots in 2012. Third-year placekicker Alex Henery is tough to get a read on. His career field goal accuracy of 87.9 percent is very good, and he made 22 consecutive kicks last year. But Henery has had few chances to make kicks under pressure, and he missed two in a close game at Tampa Bay in December. He will need to deliver in those situations as they arise.

New special teams coordinator Dave Fipp will have his hands full retooling coverage units that struggled in all phases. It wouldn't be surprising to see Jackson returning more punts, while nickel corner Brandon Boykin is likely to be returning kicks again.

FINAL ANALYSIS A quick turnaround is more than possible in today's NFL. It has become the expectation. Kelly has enough skill players to implement a formidable offense, especially if he is as good as his reputation as an innovator. He will have to settle on a No. 1 quarterback and go all-in with him. Scoring points should not be as tough as it was in Reid's final seasons.

Can the Eagles jump back to elite status with a patchwork defense run by a coach who failed to excel in two previous stints as a coordinator? That is probably the bigger question, and the issue most likely to keep the Eagles from contending in 2013.

NFL DRAFT 2013 EAGLES IN THE DRAFT

A

RD PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1. Lane Johnson	T	6-6	303	Oklahoma
2. Zach Ertz	TE	6-5	249	Stanford
3. Bennie Logan	DT	6-2	309	LSU
4. Matt Barkley	QB	6-2	227	USC
5. Earl Wolff	S	5-11	209	NC State
7. Joe Kruger	DE	6-6	269	Utah
7. Jordan Poyer	CB	6-0	191	Oregon State
7. David King	DE	6-4	281	Oklahoma

After admittedly drafting for need in recent years, the Eagles vowed to stick to their draft board this year. Lane Johnson, an athletic offensive tackle with a huge upside, was their choice with the fourth overall pick. Johnson fills a need on a line stocked with aging veterans coming off injuries. The Eagles didn't need tight ends after signing James Casey, but Stanford's Zach Ertz had their highest grade in the second round. Same with USC quarterback Matt Barkley, for whom they traded up in the fourth. Ertz will join Casey and Brent Celek in a tight end group that Chip Kelly will use to create mismatches all over the field. Third-round defensive tackle Bennie Logan and fifth-round safety Earl Wolff will get every chance to replace veterans.

Jackson: Bruce Schwartzman; Johnson: AP Photo/John Williamson

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
3 Dixon, Dennis	QB	6-3	209	4	Oregon	FA-Bal-13	D5-Pit-08
9 Foles, Nick	QB	6-6	243	1	Arizona	D3-12	D3-Phi-12
4 Kinne, G.J.	QB	6-2	234	1	Tulsa	FA-13	FA-NYJ-12
7 Vick, Michael	QB	6-0	215	11	Virginia Tech	FA-09	D1-Atl-01

RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
34 Brown, Bryce	RB	6-0	223	1	Kansas State	D7-12	D7-Phi-12
41 Igwenagu, Emil	FB	6-2	245	1	Massachusetts	FA-12	FA-Phi-12
Jones, Felix	RB	5-10	215	5	Arkansas	FA-Dal-13	D1a-Dal-08
25 McCoy, LeSean	RB	5-11	208	4	Pittsburgh	D2-09	D2-Phi-09
32 Polk, Chris	RB	5-11	222	1	Washington	FA-12	FA-Phi-12

RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
81 Avant, Jason	WR	6-0	212	7	Michigan	D4b-06	D4b-Phi-06
17 Benn, Arrelious	WR	6-2	220	3	Illinois	T-TB-13	D2b-TB-10
89 Carrier, Derek	TE	6-4	238	1	Beloit	FA-12	FA-Oak-12
85 Casey, James	TE	6-3	240	4	Rice	FA-Hou-13	D5-Hou-09
87 Celek, Brent	TE	6-4	255	6	Cincinnati	D5b-07	D5b-Phi-07
14 Cooper, Riley	WR	6-3	222	3	Florida	D5b-10	D5b-Phi-10
88 Cunningham, B.J.	WR	6-2	215	1	Michigan State	FA-12	D6-Mia-12
82 Harbor, Clay	TE	6-3	252	3	Missouri State	D4d-10	D4d-Phi-10
10 Jackson, DeSean	WR	5-10	175	5	California	D2b-08	D2b-Phi-08
13 Johnson, Damaris	WR	5-8	170	1	Tulsa	FA-12	FA-Phi-12
18 Maclin, Jeremy	WR	6-0	198	4	Missouri	D1-09	D1-Phi-09
83 McNutt, Marvin	WR	6-2	216	1	Iowa	D6a-12	D6a-Phi-12
Momah, Ifeanyi	WR	6-7	239	1	Boston College	FA-13	FA-Phi-13
19 Salas, Greg	WR	6-1	209	2	Hawaii	W-NE-12	D4-StL-11
84 Sampson, DeMarco	WR	6-2	204	1	San Diego State	FA-13	D7-Ari-11

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
76 Barbre, Allen	T	6-4	305	5	Missouri Southern	FA-13	D4-GB-07
79 Herremans, Todd	T	6-6	321	8	Saginaw Valley St.	D4b-05	D4b-Phi-05
62 Kelce, Jason	C	6-3	295	2	Cincinnati	D6a-11	D6a-Phi-11
67 Kelly, Dennis	T	6-8	321	1	Purdue	D5-12	D5-Phi-12
78 Kopa, Matt	T	6-6	310	2	Stanford	FA-NE-12	FA-SF-10
69 Mathis, Evan	G	6-5	302	8	Alabama	FA-Cin-11	D3-Car-05
74 Menkin, Nate	T/G	6-4	296	1	Mary Hardin-Baylor	W-Hou-12	FA-Hou-12
71 Peters, Jason	T	6-4	340	9	Arkansas	T-Buf-09	FA-Buf-04
66 Reynolds, Dallas	G/C	6-4	320	1	BYU	FA-09	FA-Phi-09
73 Reynolds, Matt	T	6-4	310	1	BYU	FA-12	FA-Car-12
68 Tennant, Matt	C	6-4	300	3	Boston College	FA-12	D5-NO-10
61 Vandervelde, Julian	G	6-2	300	2	Iowa	FA-12	D5b-Phi-11
77 Wang, Ed	T	6-5	315	2	Virginia Tech	FA-13	D5-Buf-10
63 Watkins, Danny	G	6-3	310	2	Baylor	D1-11	D1-Phi-11

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
93 Cameron, Ronnie	DT	6-2	295	1	Old Dominion	FA-12	FA-Chi-12
58 Cole, Trent	DE	6-3	270	8	Cincinnati	D5a-05	D5a-Phi-05
91 Cox, Fletcher	DT/DE	6-4	298	1	Mississippi State	D1-12	D1-Phi-12
75 Curry, Vinny	DE/LB	6-3	266	1	Marshall	D2b-12	D2b-Phi-12
64 Geathers, Clifton	DE	6-7	325	2	South Carolina	T-Ind-13	D6-Cle-10
54 Graham, Brandon	DE/LB	6-2	268	3	Michigan	D1-10	D1-Phi-10
97 Sopoaga, Isaac	NT	6-2	330	9	Hawaii	FA-SF-13	D4a-SF-04
72 Thornton, Cedric	DT	6-4	309	1	Southern Arkansas	FA-11	FA-Phi-11

LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
53 Acho, Emmanuel	LB	6-1	240	1	Texas	T-Cle-13	D6a-Cle-12
98 Barwin, Connor	LB	6-4	268	4	Cincinnati	FA-Hou-13	D2-Hou-09
51 Chaney, Jamar	LB	6-0	242	3	Mississippi State	D7a-10	D7a-Phi-10
76 Hunt, Phillip	LB	6-0	248	2	Houston	FA-11	FA-Cle-09
95 Kendricks, Mychal	LB	5-11	239	1	California	D2a-12	D2a-Phi-12
50 Matthews, Casey	LB	6-1	245	2	Oregon	D4a-11	D4a-Phi-11
52 Phillips, Jason	LB	6-1	240	3	TCU	FA-13	D5-Bal-09
59 Ryans, DeMeco	LB	6-1	247	7	Alabama	T-Hou-12	D2-Hou-06

DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
29 Allen, Nate	S	6-1	210	3	South Florida	D2-10	D2-Phi-10
30 Anderson, Colt	S	5-10	194	3	Montana	FA-Min-10	FA-Min-09
22 Boykin, Brandon	CB	5-9	182	1	Georgia	D4-12	D4-Phi-12
23 Chung, Patrick	S	5-11	210	4	Oregon	FA-NE-13	D2a-NE-09
42 Coleman, Kurt	S	5-11	195	3	Ohio State	D7c-10	D7c-Phi-10
24 Fletcher, Bradley	CB	6-0	200	4	Iowa	FA-StL-13	D3-StL-09
27 Hughes, Brandon	CB	5-11	185	4	Oregon State	FA-NYG-10	D5-SD-09
31 Marsh, Curtis	CB	6-1	197	2	Utah State	D3-11	D3-Phi-11
21 Phillips, Kenny	S	6-2	217	5	Miami	FA-NYG-13	D1-NYG-08
43 Sims, David	S	5-9	204	1	Iowa State	T-Cle-12	FA-NYG-11
27 Whitley, Eddie	CB	6-0	188	1	Virginia Tech	FA-12	FA-Dal-12
26 Williams, Cary	CB	6-1	190	5	Washburn	FA-Bal-13	D7-Ten-08

SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
46 Dorenbos, Jon	LS	6-0	250	10	UTEP	FA-06	FA-Buf-03
6 Henery, Alex	K/P	6-1	177	2	Nebraska	D4b-11	D4b-Phi-11
8 Jones, Donnie	P	6-2	221	9	LSU	FA-Hou-13	D7-Sea-04

Bruce Schwartzman

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	10	DeSean Jackson
	13	Damaris Johnson
WR	18	Jeremy Maclin
	14	Riley Cooper
LT	71	Jason Peters
	79	Todd Herremans
LG	79	Todd Herremans
	74	Nate Menkin
C	62	Jason Kelce
	66	Dallas Reynolds
RG	69	Evan Mathis
	63	Danny Watkins
RT	65	Lane Johnson (R)
	67	Dennis Kelly
TE	85	James Casey
	86	Zach Ertz (R)
TE	87	Brent Celek
	82	Clay Harbor
QB	7	Michael Vick
	9	Nick Foles
RB	25	LeSean McCoy
		Felix Jones

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	91	Fletcher Cox
	75	Vinny Curry
NT	96	Bennie Logan (R)
	97	Isaac Sopoaga
DE	58	Trent Cole
	55	Brandon Graham
WLB	98	Connor Barwin
	55	Brandon Graham
ILB	59	DeMeco Ryans
	52	Jason Phillips
ILB	95	Mychal Kendricks
	50	Casey Matthews
SLB	51	Jamar Chaney
	95	Mychal Kendricks
CB	24	Bradley Fletcher
	22	Brandon Boykin
CB	26	Cary Williams
	31	Curtis Marsh
FS	21	Kenny Phillips
	29	Nate Allen
SS	23	Patrick Chung
	28	Earl Wolff (R)

SPECIALISTS

K	6	Alex Henery
P	8	Donnie Jones
KR	22	Brandon Boykin
PR	13	Damaris Johnson

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
James Casey, TE

DEEP-SLEEPER
Riley Cooper, WR

OVERVALUED
Brent Celek, TE

TOP ROOKIE
Zach Ertz, TE

BOUNCE-BACK
LeSean McCoy, RB

TOP IDP
DeMeco Ryans, LB

For more Fantasy, visit **AthlonSports.com/fantasy** or follow **@AthlonSports** on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 9	at Washington (Mon.)	7:10	10-6	383.2 (5)	377.7 (28)	27.2 (4)	24.2 (22)
2	Sept. 15	San Diego	1:00	7-9	297.2 (31)	326.4 (9)	21.9 (20)	21.9 (16)
3	Sept. 19	Kansas City (Thu.)	8:25	2-14	319.2 (24)	356.5 (20)	13.2 (32)	26.6 (25)
4	Sept. 29	at Denver	4:25	13-3	397.9 (4)	290.8 (2)	30.1 (2)	18.1 (4)
5	Oct. 6	at N.Y. Giants	1:00	9-7	355.4 (14)	383.4 (31)	26.8 (6)	21.5 (12)
6	Oct. 13	at Tampa Bay	1:00	7-9	363.8 (9)	379.9 (29)	24.3 (13)	24.6 (23)
7	Oct. 20	Dallas	1:00	8-8	374.6 (6)	355.4 (19)	23.5 (15)	25.0 (24)
8	Oct. 27	N.Y. Giants	1:00	9-7	355.4 (14)	383.4 (31)	26.8 (6)	21.5 (12)
9	Nov. 3	at Oakland	4:05	4-12	344.0 (18)	354.5 (18)	18.1 (26)	27.7 (28)
10	Nov. 10	at Green Bay	1:00	11-5	359.4 (13)	336.8 (11)	27.1 (5)	21.0 (11)
11	Nov. 17	Washington	1:00	10-6	383.2 (5)	377.7 (28)	27.2 (4)	24.2 (22)
12		BYE						
13	Dec. 1	Arizona	1:00	5-11	263.1 (32)	337.8 (12)	15.6 (31)	22.3 (17)
14	Dec. 8	Detroit	1:00	4-12	408.8 (3)	341.1 (13)	23.2 (17)	27.3 (27)
15	Dec. 15	at Minnesota	1:00	10-6	336.6 (20)	350.0 (16)	23.7 (14)	21.8 (14)
16	Dec. 22	Chicago	1:00	10-6	310.6 (28)	315.6 (5)	23.4 (16)	17.3 (3)
17	Dec. 29	at Dallas	1:00	8-8	374.6 (6)	355.4 (19)	23.5 (15)	25.0 (24)

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

NFC EAST FORECAST 4

See more cheerleaders by visiting AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER: Daniel Snyder
EXECUTIVE VP/GM: Bruce Allen
SENIOR EXECUTIVE: A. J. Smith
DIRECTOR OF PLAYER PERSONNEL: Scott Campbell
STADIUM: FedEx Field (85,000)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.washingtonredskins.com
TICKETS: 301-276-6800
TRAINING CAMP: Washington Redskins Training Center (Richmond, Va.)

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Mike Shanahan
RECORD WITH TEAM: 21-27
CAREER RECORD: 167-125
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Kyle Shanahan
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Jim Haslett

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

Two significant obstacles stand between the Redskins and the next step in their turnaround: The fitness of quarterback Robert Griffin III's right knee and the $18 million salary cap penalty the club is serving in 2013. Washington could hardly enjoy its first NFC East division championship in 13 seasons because Griffin had surgery on Jan. 9 to revise the reconstruction of his ACL and repair his lateral collateral ligament and medial meniscus. Griffin's status for the regular season won't crystallize until training camp, and even then, questions will remain about his ability to stay healthy.

Meanwhile, the Redskins' salary cap sanction hindered efforts to sign free agents to bolster the first string. Washington's contingency plan was to retain 21 of 22 starters from last year's squad. That offense led the NFL with 6.2 yards per play, so the continuity could serve the Redskins well if Griffin is healthy. Defensively, though, the secondary needs an infusion of talent. Those problems make defending the division title difficult, though not impossible.

OFFENSE Griffin expected to miss at least the Redskins' offseason program because of his knee injury. Spring practices would have helped him evolve as a drop-back passer. Coach Mike Shanahan and his son, offensive coordinator Kyle, didn't force Griffin to drop back frequently during his rookie year because they opted to highlight what he did well at Baylor — line up in the shotgun and use his legs to help set up simple throws. The Shanahans believe Griffin will develop into one of the NFL's best throwers, but that process is delayed.

There's also the matter of Griffin's durability. Coaches are emphasizing the importance of throwing the ball away and sliding, but those self-preservation methods detract from Griffin's explosiveness and his ability to turn negative plays into positive gains.

Overall, though, Griffin is extremely dynamic when healthy. He protects the ball and became a more accurate passer as his rookie season progressed. He can make every throw, and his running ability allows Washington's option package to keep defenses guessing.

Fellow second-year quarterback Kirk Cousins has the coaches' confidence if Griffin can't play. His tendency to make throws based on instincts can be problematic, but he is smart and well-prepared.

It would be surprising if running back Alfred Morris duplicated his 1,613-yard rookie season because Shanahan knows Morris would wear down if he fed him another 335 carries. Morris will get most of the touches because he has good vision and footwork in the one-cut system, and he usually gains yards after contact. Roy Helu missed virtually all of his second NFL season because of a foot and toe injury that required surgery in the spring. Fifth-round draft pick Chris Thompson tore the ACL in his left knee at Florida State last October and hopes to be ready for training camp.

Washington's receivers should be even better this season. The sprained right foot that cost Pierre Garcon six games is almost fully healed. Joshua Morgan had a plate and seven screws removed from the right ankle he had surgically repaired in 2011. They might be the most physical receiving duo in the NFL. Tight end Fred Davis can be a dynamic weapon if he returns as expected to full fitness from tearing his left Achilles tendon last October.

The Redskins return all five starting offensive linemen. Tyler Polumbus, Jeremy Trueblood and Tony Pashos will compete to start at right tackle. Polumbus, the incumbent, struggles at times with footwork and leverage in pass protection, but he moves defenders in the run game.

DEFENSE Washington's secondary is the team's greatest source of uncertainty, so getting strong safety Brandon Meriweather back healthy from a torn ACL in his right knee is imperative. His speed enables the Redskins to disguise coverages, and he plays balls in space well.

Free safety presents the biggest question. Tanard Jackson, last summer's first-stringer, remains suspended indefinitely until at least Aug. 31, so Washington can't count on him. Incumbent Madieu Williams was the only starter not re-signed; he lacked range in deep coverage. The Redskins could move Meriweather to free safety and fill strong safety with the committee approach they used last season in place of Meriweather. Reed Doughty is a smart player whose tackling ability and physicality suit him well in the box. Jordan Pugh replaced Doughty in passing situations, when his speed in the deep secondary was required.

Coordinator Jim Haslett could go another direction and play fourth-round rookie Phillip

ALFRED MORRIS, RB

Athlon Sports

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Main attraction Quarterback Robert Griffin III has rocketed to mega-star status. In March, President Barack Obama requested Griffin leave his courtside seats at an NCAA men's basketball tournament game in D.C. to chat in the presidential box. Griffin had Hollywood stars such as Kevin Spacey lining up to meet him at a reception following the White House Correspondents' Dinner in April. The following week, Griffin hung out with NBA greats Shaquille O'Neal and Scottie Pippen at the Kentucky Derby.

Cap crisis Mike Shanahan met with commissioner Roger Goodell in March to try to recoup some of the $36 million of salary cap space the league penalized the Redskins over the last two seasons. Goodell did not reduce the penalty, which the league levied and the players' union agreed to in 2012 after the NFL alleged the Redskins manipulated contract bonuses to gain an unfair competitive advantage during the uncapped 2010 season. The penalty handcuffed the Redskins during free agency. They spent much of April with only $29,900 of cap space.

Convenient cure A day before the Redskins signed free agent quarterback Pat White in April, he voluntarily dismissed his concussion lawsuit against the NFL. White had been out of the NFL since suffering a concussion in 2009. His suit alleged "permanent" injuries, such as "cognitive and other difficulties, severe headaches, speech issues, memory loss, depression, isolation, mental anguish and diminished self-esteem."

Bridging a rivalry Defensive end Stephen Bowen, a former Dallas Cowboy, brought former and current teammates together in May for a "bowl-a-thon" to support his foundation, Skyler's Gift, which helps provide after-life care for families who have endured the loss of premature infants. Cowboys stars DeMarcus Ware and Miles Austin joined dozens of Redskins players, Washington owner Daniel Snyder and Mike Shanahan at the festive fundraiser. Bowen's son, Skyler, died in 2011 after being born four months prematurely.

House party Shanahan's Denver homecoming in October will allow him to check on the 35,000-square foot mansion he owns in the Denver suburb of Cherry Hills Village. The house, completed in 2009, includes a bowling alley, arcade room, elevator and a large solar panel system.

My old Virginia home The Redskins moved training camp about 100 miles south to Richmond, Va., from their headquarters in Ashburn as part of a 2012 deal to ensure that the club remains based inside the Commonwealth's borders. The agreement includes publicly funded renovations of Redskins Park and a new $10 million training camp facility in the capital. It's the first time since 2002 the team has gone away to camp.

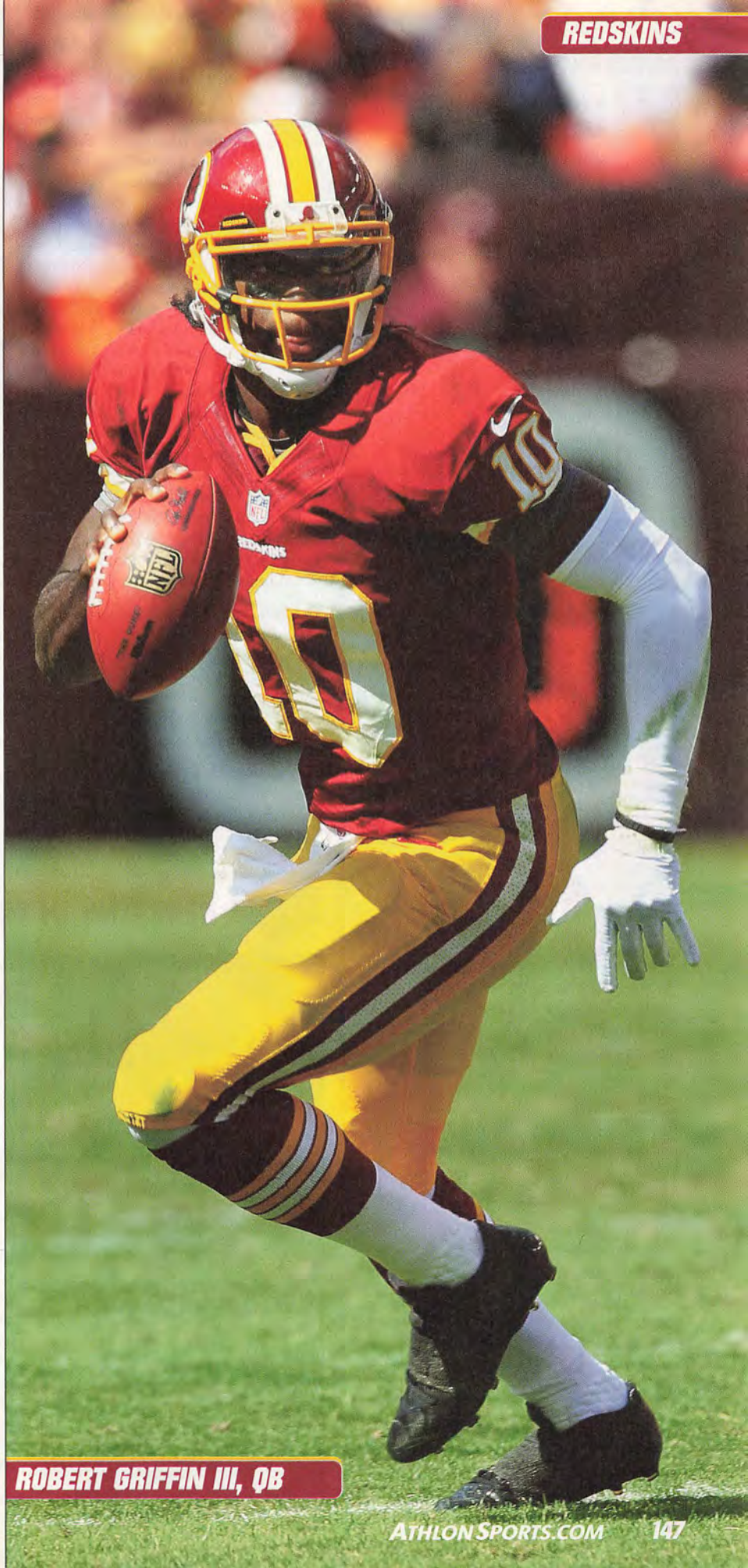
PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
CB	E.J. Biggers	Tampa Bay
T	Tony Pashos	Cleveland
T	Jeremy Trueblood	Tampa Bay

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
LB	Lorenzo Alexander	Arizona
TE	Chris Cooley	Free Agent
FS	Madieu Williams	Free Agent



ROBERT GRIFFIN III, QB

2012 RESULTS (10–6)

Sept. 9	at New Orleans	W	40–32
Sept. 16	at St. Louis	L	28–31
Sept. 23	Cincinnati	L	31–38
Sept. 30	at Tampa Bay	W	24–22
Oct. 7	Atlanta	L	17–24
Oct. 14	Minnesota	W	38–26
Oct. 21	at N.Y. Giants	L	23–27
Oct. 28	at Pittsburgh	L	12–27
Nov. 4	Carolina	L	13–21
Nov. 18	Philadelphia	W	31–6
Nov. 22	at Dallas	W	38–31
Dec. 3	N.Y. Giants	W	17–16
Dec. 9	Baltimore (ot)	W	31–28
Dec. 16	at Cleveland	W	38–21
Dec. 23	at Philadelphia	W	27–20
Dec. 30	Dallas	W	28–18
Postseason			
Jan. 6	Seattle	L	14–24

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Robert Griffin III	393	258	3,200	20	5
Kirk Cousins	48	33	466	4	3

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Alfred Morris	335	1,613	4.8	13
Robert Griffin III	120	815	6.8	7
Evan Royster	23	88	3.8	2

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Josh Morgan	48	510	10.6	2
Pierre Garcon	44	633	14.4	4
Santana Moss	41	573	14.0	8
Leonard Hankerson	38	543	14.3	3
Logan Paulsen	25	308	12.3	1

KICKING: Kai Forbath, 17-18 FGs, 33-34 XPs, 84 points
TACKLES: London Fletcher, 139; Perry Riley, 129
SACKS: Ryan Kerrigan, 8.5; Rob Jackson, 4.5
INTERCEPTIONS: London Fletcher, 5; DeAngelo Hall, 4
FORCED FUMBLES: Josh Wilson, 3

2012 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	383.2	5	3
Rushing	169.3	1	1
Passing	213.9	20	11
Scoring	27.2	4	2
Third Down %	35.8	24	13
Punt Returns	9.3	T17	6
Kick Returns	23.5	16	8

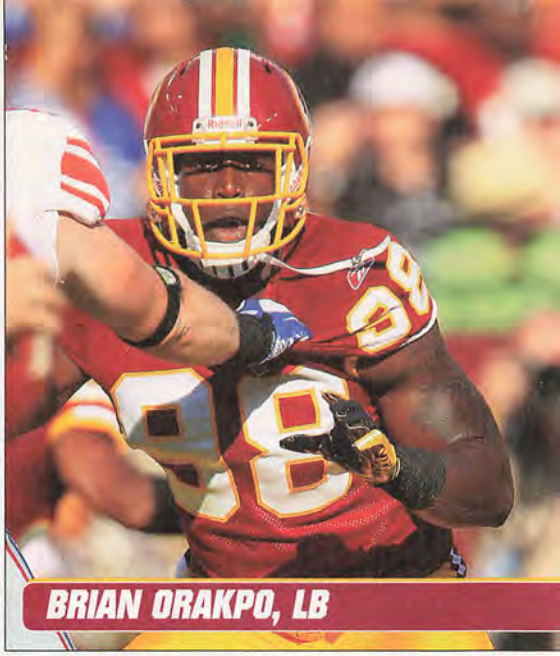
TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	377.7	28	13
Rushing	95.8	5	3
Passing	281.9	30	14
Scoring	24.2	22	11
Interceptions	21	T3	T3
Sacks	32.0	T23	12
Turnover Differential	+16	3	2

Thomas or sixth-round rookie Bacarri Rambo. Both have collegiate experience playing strong and free, which meets the interchangeability requirement the Redskins have for their safeties.

Thomas played a significant amount in the box and in Cover-2 at Fresno State, so he must prove he can cover as a single high safety and take proper angles on tackles. Rambo is an instinctive free safety, but neither he nor Thomas is particularly fast.

Two-time Pro Bowl outside linebacker Brian Orakpo returns to aid the pass rush. He is recovered from the torn left pectoral muscle that cost him 14 games last season. His strength, speed and technique help him push the pocket.

The front seven remains an asset, particularly against the run. It must generate a more formidable pass rush with only four rushers. Defensive end Adam Carriker's recovery from a season-ending quadriceps tear in Week 2 was delayed by a setback in March. His strength makes him an important part of the line rotation in the nickel package. Without him, others have to do extra work, so the Redskins hope he's back for training camp.


BRIAN ORAKPO, LB

SPECIALISTS The Redskins' greatest loss in free agency was Pro Bowl special teamer Lorenzo Alexander. He constantly commanded double teams by opposing kickoff and punt return units. Kai Forbath is an accurate field goal kicker, but his kickoffs fall short of desired distance. As long as he's making field goals, though, his job is safe. Punter Sav Rocca can be inconsistent, but he's capable of long punts when necessary. Richard Crawford shined as a punt returner late last season because of his fearlessness getting up the field. Niles Paul isn't an explosive kick returner, so his hold on that job is tenuous.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Redskins return all but one starter from the team that overcame significant injuries en route to 10 wins and the division title. Their success hinges on Griffin's health, but the Redskins are well-coached and deeper than they've been in years. If Griffin is healthy all season, they could contend. If not, they could have trouble breaking the .500 mark.

NFL DRAFT 2013 REDSKINS IN THE DRAFT

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
2.	David Amerson	CB	6-1	205	NC State
3.	Jordan Reed	TE	6-3	236	Florida
4.	Phillip Thomas	S	6-1	198	Fresno State
5.	Chris Thompson	RB	5-7	192	Florida State
5.	Brandon Jenkins	LB	6-3	251	Florida State
6.	Bacarri Rambo	S	6-1	211	Georgia
7.	Jawan Jamison	RB	5-7	203	Rutgers

Mike Shanahan could afford to select high-upside players and value picks because he already had a talented roster. This class adds much-needed depth to the secondary. David Amerson immediately becomes Washington's biggest cornerback. Coaches like his length and playmaking ability, but he admittedly surrendered too many big plays in 2012 because of poor eye discipline and a tendency to try to sit on routes. Phillip Thomas could have the biggest impact of any Washington rookie, because the Redskins lack a true first-string free safety. Fresno State ran defensive concepts similar to those run by the Redskins, so he should learn their scheme quickly. If he tackles well, he could start. Jordan Reed is an athletic pass-catching threat in the Aaron Hernandez mold.

Orakpo: Athlon Sports; Amerson: Bruce Schwartzman

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
12	Cousins, Kirk	QB	6-3	209	1	Michigan State	D4a-12	D4a-Was-12
10	Griffin III, Robert	QB	6-2	217	1	Baylor	D1-12	D1-Was-12
8	Grossman, Rex	QB	6-1	225	10	Florida	FA-Hou-10	D1-Chi-03
5	White, Pat	QB	6-0	190	1	West Virginia	FA-13	D2-Mia-09
RUNNING BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
45	Boyce, Dorson	FB	6-2	249	1	Washington	FA-12	FA-Sea-11
38	Davis, Tristan	RB	5-10	211	1	Auburn	FA-11	FA-Det-09
29	Helu Jr., Roy	RB	5-11	215	2	Nebraska	D4-11	D4-Was-11
40	Kettani, Eric	FB	5-11	240	1	Navy	FA-12	FA-NE-09
46	Morris, Alfred	RB	5-10	218	1	Florida Atlantic	D6a-12	D6a-Was-12
22	Royster, Evan	RB	6-1	216	2	Penn State	D6a-11	D6a-Was-11
25	Williams, Keiland	RB	5-11	230	3	LSU	FA-12	FA-Was-10
36	Young, Darrel	FB	5-11	251	3	Villanova	FA-10	FA-Was-09
RECEIVERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
19	Briscoe, Dezmon	WR	6-2	210	2	Kansas	W-TB-12	D6-Cin-10
83	Davis, Fred	TE	6-4	247	5	USC	D2b-08	D2b-Was-08
88	Garçon, Pierre	WR	6-0	212	5	Mount Union	FA-Ind-12	D6-Ind-08
85	Hankerson, Leonard	WR	6-2	211	2	Miami	D3-11	D3-Was-11
15	Morgan, Joshua	WR	6-1	220	5	Virginia Tech	FA-SF-12	D6-SF-08
89	Moss, Santana	WR	5-10	189	12	Miami	T-NYJ-05	D1-NYJ-01
84	Paul, Niles	TE	6-1	233	2	Nebraska	D5b-11	D5b-Was-11
82	Paulsen, Logan	TE/FB	6-5	261	3	UCLA	FA-10	FA-Was-10
87	Peterson, Deangelo	TE	6-3	243	1	LSU	FA-12	FA-StL-12
11	Robinson, Aldrick	WR	5-10	181	1	SMU	D6b-11	D6b-Was-11
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
66	Chester, Chris	OL	6-3	309	7	Oklahoma	FA-Bal-11	D2-Bal-06
68	Compton, Tom	T	6-5	308	1	South Dakota	D6b-12	D6b-Was-12
73	Gettis, Adam	G	6-2	292	1	Iowa	D5-12	D5-Was-12
79	Hurt, Maurice	G/T	6-3	329	2	Florida	D7b-11	D7b-Was-11
67	LeRibeus, Josh	G/C	6-2	315	1	SMU	D3-12	D3-Was-12
78	Lichtensteiger, Kory	G/C	6-2	284	4	Bowling Green	FA-10	D4-Den-08
	Matthews, Kevin	C	6-3	302	2	Texas A&M	FA-Ten-13	FA-Ten-10
63	Montgomery, Will	OL	6-3	304	7	Virginia Tech	FA-08	D7-Car-06
77	Pashos, Tony	T	6-6	325	8	Illinois	FA-13	D5-Bal-03
74	Polumbus, Tyler	T	6-8	305	4	Colorado	FA-11	FA-Den-08
69	Trueblood, Jeremy	T	6-8	320	7	Boston College	FA-TB-13	D2-TB-06
71	Williams, Trent	T	6-5	325	3	Oklahoma	D1-10	D1-Was-10
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
75	Anunoby, Chigbo	DL	6-4	324	1	Morehouse	FA-12	FA-Ind-12
92	Baker, Chris	DL	6-2	333	2	Hampton	FA-11	FA-Den-09
72	Bowen, Stephen	DL	6-5	310	7	Hofstra	FA-Dal-11	FA-Dal-06
94	Carriker, Adam	DL	6-6	305	6	Nebraska	T-StL-10	D1-StL-07
96	Cofield, Barry	DL	6-4	318	7	Northwestern	FA-NYG-11	D4-NYG-06
64	Golston, Kedric	DL	6-4	318	7	Georgia	D6-06	D6-Was-06
76	Hamilton, Dominique	DL	6-5	315	1	Missouri	FA-12	FA-Oak-12
99	Jenkins, Jarvis	DE	6-4	315	2	Clemson	D2-11	D2-Was-11
95	Neild, Chris	NT	6-2	325	2	West Virginia	D7d-11	D7d-Was-11
90	Worthington, Doug	DE	6-5	311	1	Ohio State	W-TB-11	D7-Pit-10
LINEBACKERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
59	Fletcher, London	LB	5-10	242	15	John Carroll	FA-Buf-07	FA-StL-98
50	Jackson, Rob	LB	6-4	266	4	Kansas State	D7b-08	D7b-Was-08
53	Kehl, Bryan	LB	6-2	243	5	BYU	W-KC-12	D4-NYG-08
91	Kerrigan, Ryan	LB	6-4	260	2	Purdue	D1-11	D1-Was-11
55	Muckelroy, Roddrick	LB	6-2	250	3	Texas	FA-12	D4-Cin-10
98	Orakpo, Brian	LB	6-4	257	4	Texas	D1-09	D1-Was-09
56	Riley, Perry	LB	6-0	238	3	Louisiana State	D4-10	D4-Was-10
52	Robinson, Keenan	LB	6-3	238	1	Texas	D4b-12	D4b-Was-12
58	So'oto, Vic	LB	6-3	263	2	BYU	FA-12	FA-GB-11
54	Tapp, Darryl	LB	6-1	270	7	Virginia Tech	FA-Phi-13	D2-Sea-06
DEFENSIVE BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
48	Bernstine, Jordan	S	5-11	214	1	Iowa	D7b-12	D7b-Was-12
30	Biggers, E.J.	CB	6-0	185	4	Western Michigan	FA-TB-13	D7a-TB-09
20	Crawford, Richard	CB	5-11	188	1	SMU	D7a-12	D7a-Was-12
37	Doughty, Reed	S	6-1	206	7	Northern Colorado	D6-06	D6-Was-06
24	Gomes, DeJon	S	6-0	201	2	Nebraska	D5a-11	D5a-Was-11
23	Hall, DeAngelo	CB	5-10	193	9	Virginia Tech	FA-08	D1-Atl-04
34	Jackson, Tanard	S	6-0	196	5	Syracuse	FA-12	D4-TB-07
31	Meriweather, Brandon	S	5-11	197	6	Miami	FA-Chi-12	D1-NE-07
25	Minnifield, Chase	CB	6-0	186	1	Virginia	FA-12	FA-Was-12
45	Murphy, Jerome	CB	6-0	200	2	South Florida	FA-12	D3-StL-10
32	Pugh, Jordan	S	5-11	210	3	Texas A&M	FA-12	D6-Car-10
26	Wilson, Josh	CB	5-9	188	6	Maryland	FA-Bal-11	D2-Sea-07
SPECIALISTS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
2	Forbath, Kai	K	5-11	197	1	UCLA	FA-12	FA-Dal-11
6	Rocca, Sav	P	6-5	263	6	Lakeside	FA-Phi-11	FA-Phi-07
57	Sundberg, Nick	LS	6-0	251	3	California	FA-10	FA-Car-09

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	88	Pierre Garcon
	11	Aldrick Robinson
WR	15	Joshua Morgan
	85	Leonard Hankerson
LT	71	Trent Williams
	68	Tom Compton
LG	78	Kory Lichtensteiger
	67	Josh LeRibeus
C	63	Will Montgomery
	67	Josh LeRibeus
RG	66	Chris Chester
	73	Adam Gettis
RT	74	Tyler Polumbus
	69	Jeremy Trueblood
TE	83	Fred Davis
	82	Logan Paulsen
QB	10	Robert Griffin III
	12	Kirk Cousins
FB	36	Darrel Young
	82	Logan Paulsen
RB	46	Alfred Morris
	22	Evan Royster

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	99	Jarvis Jenkins
	94	Adam Carriker
NT	96	Barry Cofield
	92	Chris Baker
DE	72	Stephen Bowen
	64	Kedric Golston
OLB	91	Ryan Kerrigan
	54	Darryl Tapp
ILB	59	London Fletcher
	53	Bryan Kehl
ILB	56	Perry Riley
	52	Keenan Robinson
OLB	98	Brian Orakpo
	50	Rob Jackson
CB	26	Josh Wilson
	30	E.J. Biggers
CB	23	DeAngelo Hall
	39	David Amerson (R)
SS	31	Brandon Meriweather
	37	Reed Doughty
FS	37	Reed Doughty
	41	Phillip Thomas (R)

SPECIALISTS

K	2	Kai Forbath
P	6	Sav Rocca
PR	20	Richard Crawford
KR	84	Niles Paul

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
Kirk Cousins, QB

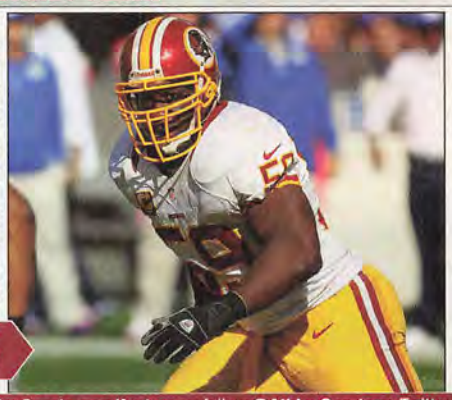
DEEP-SLEEPER
Jordan Reed, TE

OVERVALUED
Santana Moss, WR

TOP ROOKIE
Jordan Reed, TE

BOUNCE-BACK
Fred Davis, TE

TOP IDP
London Fletcher, LB



For more Fantasy, visit **AthlonSports.com/fantasy** or follow **@AthlonSports** on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 9	Philadelphia (Mon.)	7:10	4-12	354.1 (15)	343.2 (15)	17.5 (29)	27.8 (29)
2	Sept. 15	at Green Bay	1:00	11-5	359.4 (13)	336.8 (11)	27.1 (5)	21.0 (11)
3	Sept. 22	Detroit	1:00	4-12	408.8 (3)	341.1 (13)	23.2 (17)	27.3 (27)
4	Sept. 29	at Oakland	4:25	4-12	344.0 (18)	354.5 (18)	18.1 (26)	27.7 (28)
5		BYE						
6	Oct. 13	at Dallas	8:30	8-8	374.6 (6)	355.4 (19)	23.5 (15)	25.0 (24)
7	Oct. 20	Chicago	1:00	10-6	310.6 (28)	315.6 (5)	23.4 (16)	17.3 (3)
8	Oct. 27	at Denver	4:25	13-3	397.9 (4)	290.8 (2)	30.1 (2)	18.1 (4)
9	Nov. 3	San Diego	1:00	7-9	297.2 (31)	326.4 (9)	21.9 (20)	21.9 (16)
10	Nov. 7	at Minnesota (Thu.)	8:25	10-6	336.6 (20)	350.0 (16)	23.7 (14)	21.8 (14)
11	Nov. 17	at Philadelphia	1:00	4-12	354.1 (15)	343.2 (15)	17.5 (29)	27.8 (29)
12	Nov. 25	San Francisco (Mon.)	8:40	11-4-1	361.8 (11)	294.4 (3)	24.8 (11)	17.1 (2)
13	Dec. 1	N.Y. Giants	8:30	9-7	355.4 (14)	383.4 (31)	26.8 (6)	21.5 (12)
14	Dec. 8	Kansas City	1:00	2-14	319.2 (24)	356.5 (20)	13.2 (32)	26.6 (25)
15	Dec. 15	at Atlanta	1:00	13-3	369.1 (8)	365.6 (24)	26.2 (7)	18.7 (5)
16	Dec. 22	Dallas	1:00	8-8	374.6 (6)	355.4 (19)	23.5 (15)	25.0 (24)
17	Dec. 29	at N.Y. Giants	1:00	9-7	355.4 (14)	383.4 (31)	26.8 (6)	21.5 (12)

Athlon Sports

CHICAGO BEARS

See more cheerleaders by visiting AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

THE ORGANIZATION

CHAIRMAN: George McCaskey
PRESIDENT/CEO: Ted Phillips
GENERAL MANAGER: Phil Emery
STADIUM: Soldier Field (61,500)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.chicagobears.com
TICKETS: 888-79-BEARS
TRAINING CAMP: Olivet Nazarene University (Bourbonnais, Ill.)

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Marc Trestman
RECORD WITH TEAM: 0-0
CAREER RECORD: 0-0
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Aaron Kromer
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Mel Tucker

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2008	9
2009	7
2010	11
2011	8
2012	10

Playoffs

For the first time since 2004, this is not Lovie Smith's team. Marc Trestman was imported from the Canadian Football League with the hope that he could make the Bears a more frequent participant in the postseason. That's something Smith was able do only once in his final six seasons, including 2012, when the Bears went 10–6 but missed the postseason on a tiebreaker.

The Bears are not in a rebuilding mode, and they shouldn't be, considering their 29–19 record over the last three seasons. But they will have different looks on both sides of the ball, even though new defensive coordinator Mel Tucker will play a 4-3 with some Cover-2, similar to what the Bears ran in the past.

The Bears parted ways with eight-time Pro Bowl middle linebacker Brian Urlacher when neither side would budge from the team's offer of $2 million for the future Hall of Famer, who is 35. There were, however, some positive additions on the other side of the ball. For the first time since quarterback Jay Cutler was acquired, before the 2009 season, he has a Pro Bowl left tackle protecting his blind side: free agent pickup Jermon Bushrod. On the same day the Bears acquired the former Saint, they added Martellus Bennett, giving Cutler a tight end known for his pass-catching skills for the first time since Greg Olsen was traded in July 2011.

OFFENSE Cutler is in the final season of a five-year, $49.7 million deal, and he's unlikely to get another big deal from the Bears without adding to his career playoff victory total of one.

In his fifth year with the Bears, Cutler has been provided with more talent on the offensive line than he's ever had in Chicago. Bushrod is the key, bringing the stability and consistency that was lacking. Guard Matt Slauson, a starter the previous three years with the Jets, was also added in free agency, replacing Lance Louis, who signed with the Dolphins. Then the Bears used their first-round pick on guard Kyle Long and their fifth-rounder on tackle Jordan Mills.

Bennett, a complete tight end and a talented receiver, represents a huge upgrade at the position. Together with big, strong wide receiver Brandon Marshall and quick, elusive running back Matt Forté, Cutler has more offensive firepower at his disposal than ever before. GM Phil Emery acquired Marshall before the 2012 season for only a pair of third-round picks because of off-the-field problems, which the 6'4", 230-pounder says were a result of undiagnosed Borderline Personality Disorder. Emery's gamble paid off with the most prolific pass-catching season in franchise history (118 receptions, 1,508 yards and 11 touchdowns). The Bears hope to be less dependent on Marshall, although he still figures to be the go-to guy.

The protection in front of Cutler will look a lot different. J'Marcus Webb will compete with journeyman Jonathan Scott at right tackle. Gabe Carimi, the 2011 first-round draft pick who was a bust at right tackle in 2012, will get a chance to compete for a spot at guard, along with Slauson and Long. The Bears hope they can get a 12th year out of Roberto Garza at center.

The run game is in the more-than-capable hands of Forté, the primary ball-carrier and a productive pass-catcher. He had more than 50 catches in each of his first four seasons before dipping to 44 last season, when the offense de-emphasized his role in the passing game. Burly but agile Michael Bush is a nice complement to Forté and an effective short-yardage option.

If they stick to Trestman's plan of using Devin Hester almost exclusively as a return specialist, the Bears need to find a deep threat. They had one in Johnny Knox, but he was unable to come back from a spine injury in 2011. Last year's second-round pick, 6'3", 216-pound Alshon Jeffery, is more than a possession receiver, and tough Earl Bennett is a reliable underneath target, but there's no one to stretch the field vertically.

DEFENSE The window is closing on a talented but aging defense, led by three players in their early 30s — seven-time Pro Bowl weak-side linebacker Lance Briggs, eight-time Pro Bowl defensive end Julius Peppers and two-time Pro Bowl cornerback Charles Tillman. Urlacher is gone, as is Nick Roach, the strong-side starter for most of the past five seasons. Former Bronco D.J. Williams was brought in to play the middle, and James Anderson takes over for Roach. But both were signed to one-year contracts, and Williams is 31 and Anderson turns 30 in September. Jon Bostic and Khaseem Greene, the second- and fourth-round picks, respectively, could represent the Bears' future at linebacker.

Tillman's running mate, feisty little Tim Jennings, also made the Pro Bowl last season on the strength of an NFL-best nine interceptions. Ninth-year veteran Kelvin Hayden is back to play

BRANDON MARSHALL, WR

Cutler, Marshall: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Fan: AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Endangered species Tight end Martellus Bennett is, to put it mildly, out there. He has given himself the nickname, "The Black Unicorn," and the explanation is quintessential Bennett. "Basically, black unicorns are rare," Bennett says. "Anytime you see a picture, like at school when you get the little folders, they all have the white unicorns. So, being African-American, I just thought it would be clever to be the black unicorn. Unicorns are cool, but I prefer dinosaurs. One day I had black tights on, and I was running down the field, and I just felt like a unicorn. I didn't feel like a horse, so I just said 'the black unicorn.' It's like 'The Black Mamba' for Kobe. The black unicorn is magical. I enjoy magic. I'm a Harry Potter fan."

Not a one-man team A popular opinion is that Jay Cutler, in the last year of his current contract, needs to lead the Bears into the playoffs or he won't be back next season. But GM Phil Emery is trying to take some of that burden off the veteran quarterback. "Winning a championship is not on Jay," Emery says. "Winning a championship is on the Chicago Bears. It's about us doing everything possible to upgrade the team in terms of personnel and our coaches and players working together along with everyone else in the building to develop a championship team."

Peace of mind Only the Cardinals have allowed more sacks than the Bears over the past three years, and Cutler has taken a beating as a result. No one was happier than Cutler when two-time Pro Bowl left tackle Jermon Bushrod was added in free agency. "It makes life easier, that's for sure," Cutler says. "Not only for me, but just for game-planning. Take a guy like that, stick him over there and say, 'You've got that guy,' and (we) don't have to worry about him. It's a similar situation in Denver when I had Ryan Clady as a rookie (in 2008)."

Dialing long distance In his first four NFL seasons, Robbie Gould attempted only two field goals from 50 yards or longer, and he missed them both. In the past four seasons, Gould has undergone a power surge, hitting 13-of-15 from 50 or longer, including 8-of-8 since 2011. Gould is also the sixth-most-accurate field goal kicker in NFL history at 85.6 percent (208-of-243).

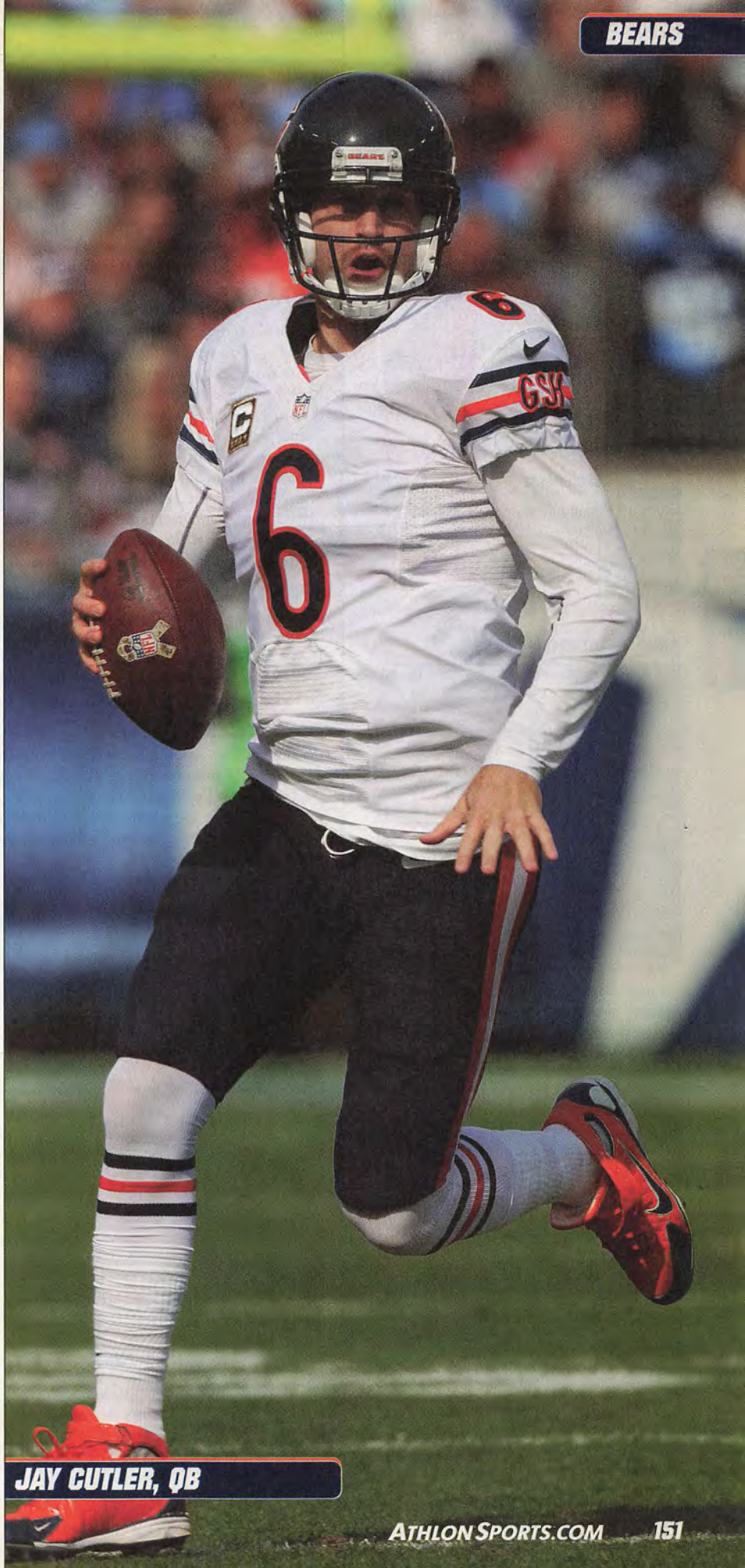
PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
LB	James Anderson	Carolina
TE	Martellus Bennett	N.Y. Giants
T	Jermon Bushrod	New Orleans
G	Matt Slauson	N.Y. Jets
LB	D.J. Williams	Denver
S	Tom Zbikowski	Indianapolis

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
QB	Jason Campbell	Cleveland
TE	Kellen Davis	Cleveland
LB	Geno Hayes	Jacksonville
DL	Israel Idonije	Free Agent
G	Lance Louis	Miami
DT	Amobi Okoye	Free Agent
LB	Nick Roach	Oakland
TE	Matt Spaeth	Pittsburgh
C/G	Chris Spencer	Tennessee
LB	Brian Urlacher	Free Agent



JAY CUTLER, QB

2012 RESULTS (10–6)

Sept. 9	Indianapolis	W	41–21
Sept. 13	at Green Bay	L	10–23
Sept. 2	St. Louis	W	23–6
Oct. 1	at Dallas	W	34–18
Oct. 7	at Jacksonville	W	41–3
Oct. 22	Detroit	W	13–7
Oct. 28	Carolina	W	23–22
Nov. 4	at Tennessee	W	51–20
Nov. 11	Houston	L	6–13
Nov. 19	at San Francisco	L	7–32
Nov. 25	Minnesota	W	28–10
Dec. 2	Seattle (ot)	L	17–23
Dec. 9	at Minnesota	L	14–21
Dec. 16	Green Bay	L	13–21
Dec. 23	at Arizona	W	28–13
Dec. 30	at Detroit	W	26–24

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Jay Cutler	434	255	3,033	19	14
Jason Campbell	51	32	265	2	2

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Matt Forté	248	1,094	4.4	5
Michael Bush	114	411	3.6	5
Jay Cutler	41	233	5.7	0
Armando Allen	27	124	4.6	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Brandon Marshall	118	1,508	12.8	11
Matt Forté	44	340	7.7	1
Earl Bennett	29	375	12.9	2
Alshon Jeffery	24	367	15.3	3

KICKING: Robbie Gould, 21-25 FGs, 33-33 XPs, 96 points
TACKLES: Lance Briggs, 103; Charles Tillman, 86
SACKS: Julius Peppers, 11.5; Israel Idonije, 7.5
INTERCEPTIONS: Tim Jennings, 9; Major Wright, 4
FORCED FUMBLES: Charles Tillman 10

2012 STATS

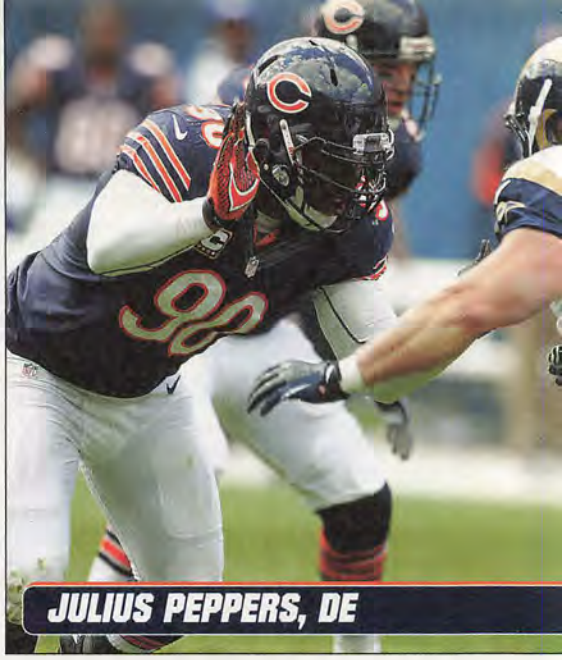
TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	310.6	28	15
Rushing	123.1	10	6
Passing	187.4	29	15
Scoring	23.4	16	11
Third Down %	36.5	22	11
Punt Returns	7.6	T26	3
Kick Returns	19.8	32	16

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	315.6	5	3
Rushing	101.7	8	4
Passing	213.9	8	4
Scoring	17.3	3	3
Interceptions	24	1	1
Sacks	41.0	8	4
Turnover Differential	+20	2	1

the nickel, but for now, the only proven depth consists of Zack Bowman, who has started only four games since 2009.

The safety position showed an uncharacteristic continuity last season. Strong safety Major Wright and free safety Chris Conte both started every game, until Conte missed the finale with a hamstring injury. In the previous eight seasons, the Bears had made a combined 54 lineup changes at the safety position. There is plenty of depth with veterans Tom Zbikowski and Craig Steltz and youngsters Brandon Hardin and Anthony Walters.

Up front, 3-technique tackle Henry Melton went to his first Pro Bowl, partly due to his six sacks, and 2010 fourth-round pick Corey Wootton had a breakout season, winning the left end job at midseason and contributing seven sacks. Shea McClellin, the 2012 first-round pick, played in the end rotation and showed pass-rush potential. Stephen Paea started 14 games at nose tackle but doesn't have the ideal size for the position and is best playing in a rotation. There is very little depth inside.


JULIUS PEPPERS, DE

SPECIALISTS Placekicker Robbie Gould missed the final three games of 2012 with a calf injury, but he's as reliable as they come, ranking sixth in NFL history in field goal percentage. His kickoffs have gotten longer every season, as has his proficiency at long field goals. Punter Adam Podlesh allowed just 84 return yards on 81 punts. The Bears are counting on a return to form in the return game from Hester, who slumped badly as a punt returner last season but was solid on kickoff returns. Hester failed to score on a return for the first time in three years.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Bears have an almost-all-new coaching staff, and a lot of the personnel also has changed. But Tucker's 4-3 scheme is not expected to look much different from the defenses of the previous nine years. Offensive coordinator Aaron Kromer and Trestman will run their version of the West Coast offense with a priority on getting rid of the ball quickly. This was a 10–6 team last season that barely missed the playoffs, so anything less than postseason participation will be considered a disappointment.

BEARS IN THE DRAFT

D

RD PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1. Kyle Long	G	6-6	315	Oregon
2. Jon Bostic	LB	6-1	245	Florida
4. Khaseem Greene	LB	6-1	241	Rutgers
5. Jordan Mills	T	6-5	316	Louisiana Tech
6. Cornelius Washington	LB	6-4	265	Georgia
7. Marquess Wilson	WR	6-3	194	Wash. State

Kyle Long is raw but has rare athleticism for the position (he was a high school pitcher with a mid-90s fastball and also played quarterback in junior college), an NFL body and great bloodlines (he's the son of Pro Football Hall of Famer Howie). He could compete for a starting job as a rookie. Jon Bostic and Khaseem Greene provide a much-needed infusion of youth at the linebacker spot. Bostic has versatility, while Greene is more suited to the weak side. Jordan Mills isn't expected to see much playing time as a rookie at offensive tackle, where the depth chart is crowded with veterans. Cornelius Washington could see time as a situational pass-rusher. Marquess Wilson was productive until he quit the Cougars last season over dissatisfaction with his treatment by coach Mike Leach.

Peppers: Steve Woltmann; Long: John Green/Cal Sport Media/ AP Images

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
4 Blanchard, Matt	QB	6-3	225	1	Wisconsin-White.	FA-12	FA-Chi-12
6 Cutler, Jay	QB	6-3	220	7	Vanderbilt	T-Den-09	D1-Den-06
12 McCown, Josh	QB	6-4	213	10	Sam Houston State	FA-11	D3-Ari-02
RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
25 Allen, Armando	RB	5-8	190	1	Notre Dame	FA-11	FA-TB-11
29 Bush, Michael	RB	6-1	245	6	Louisville	FA-Oak-12	D4-Oak-07
22 Forté, Matt	RB	6-2	218	5	Tulane	D2-08	D2-Chi-08
48 Rodriguez, Evan	FB	6-2	239	1	Temple	D4-12	D4-Chi-12
45 Unga, Harvey	FB	6-0	237	2	BYU	SD7-10	SD7-Chi-10
RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
86 Adams, Kyle	TE	6-4	255	2	Purdue	FA-11	FA-Chi-11
19 Anderson, Joe	WR	6-1	196	1	Texas Southern	FA-12	FA-Chi-12
80 Bennett, Earl	WR	6-0	206	5	Vanderbilt	D3a-08	D3a-Chi-08
83 Bennett, Martellus	TE	6-6	265	5	Texas A&M	FA-NYG-13	D2-Dal-08
23 Hester, Devin	WR	5-11	190	7	Miami	D2b-06	D2b-Chi-06
17 Jeffery, Alshon	WR	6-3	216	1	South Carolina	D2-12	D2-Chi-12
13 Knox, Johnny	WR	6-0	185	4	Abilene Christian	D5a-09	D5a-Chi-09
87 Maneri, Steve	TE	6-7	280	2	Temple	FA-KC-13	FA-Hou-10
15 Marshall, Brandon	WR	6-4	230	7	UCF	T-Mia-12	D4-Den-06
83 Moss, Dale	WR	6-3	213	1	South Dakota St.	FA-12	FA-GB-12
14 Weems, Eric	WR	5-9	195	6	Bethune-Cookman	FA-Atl-12	FA-Atl-07
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
60 Boggs, Taylor	C	6-3	285	1	Humboldt State	FA-13	FA-NYJ-11
76 Brandon, Cory	T	6-7	324	1	Oklahoma	FA-12	FA-TB-11
62 Britton, Eben	G	6-6	308	4	Arizona	FA-Jac-13	D2-Jac-09
78 Brown, James	T/G	6-4	306	1	Troy	FA-12	FA-Chi-12
74 Bushrod, Jermon	T	6-5	315	6	Towson	FA-NO-13	D4b-NO-07
72 Carimi, Gabe	G/T	6-7	316	2	Wisconsin	D1-11	D1-Chi-11
75 Dennis, Derek	OL	6-3	315	1	Temple	FA-12	FA-Mia-12
63 Garza, Roberto	C/G	6-2	310	12	Texas A&M-Kings.	FA-Atl-05	D4-Atl-01
79 Scott, Jonathan	T	6-6	318	6	Texas	FA-12	D5-Det-06
68 Slauson, Matt	G	6-5	315	4	Nebraska	FA-NYJ-13	D6-NYJ-09
73 Webb, J'Marcus	T	6-7	333	3	West Texas A&M	D7-10	D7-Chi-10
70 Williams, Edwin	G/C	6-3	315	3	Maryland	W-Was-10	FA-Was-09
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
93 Collins, Nate	DT	6-2	296	3	Virginia	FA-Jac-12	FA-NYG-10
Irvin, Corvey	DT	6-2	295	2	Georgia	FA-TB-13	D3-Car-09
75 Fluellen, Andre	DT	6-2	302	6	Florida State	FA-Det-12	D3b-Det-08
94 McBride, Turk	DE	6-2	278	6	Tennessee	FA-NO-13	D2-KC-07
99 McClellin, Shea	DE	6-3	260	1	Boise State	D1-12	D1-Chi-12
69 Melton, Henry	DT	6-3	295	4	Texas	D4a-09	D4a-Chi-09
67 Kyle Moore	DE	6-6	263	5	USC	FA-Buf-12	D4-TB-09
95 Ozougwu, Cheta	DE	6-2	255	1	Rice	FA-12	D7-Hou-11
92 Paea, Stephen	DT	6-1	300	2	Oregon State	D2-11	D2-Chi-11
90 Peppers, Julius	DE	6-7	287	11	North Carolina	FA-Car-10	D1-Car-02
91 Whiteside, Aston	DE	6-2	255	1	Abilene Christian	FA-12	FA-Dal-12
98 Wootton, Corey	DE	6-6	270	3	Northwestern	D4-10	D4-Chi-10
LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
50 Anderson, James	LB	6-2	235	7	Virginia Tech	FA-Car-13	D3a-Car-06
55 Briggs, Lance	LB	6-1	242	10	Arizona	D3-03	D3-Chi-03
52 Costanzo, Blake	LB	6-1	235	6	Lafayette	FA-SF-12	FA-NYJ-06
57 DeCicco, Dom	LB	6-4	230	2	Pittsburgh	FA-11	FA-Chi-11
59 Franklin, Jerry	LB	6-1	245	1	Arkansas	PS-Dal-12	FA-Den-12
97 Thomas, J.T.	LB	6-1	241	2	West Virginia	D6-11	D6-Chi-11
58 Williams, D.J.	LB	6-1	242	9	Miami	FA-Den-13	D1-Den-04
DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
38 Bowman, Zackary	CB	6-1	196	5	Nebraska	D5a-08	D5a-Chi-08
47 Conte, Chris	S	6-2	203	2	California	D3-11	D3-Chi-11
31 Frey, Isaiah	CB	5-11	190	1	Nevada	D6-12	D6-Chi-12
35 Hardin, Brandon	S	6-3	217	1	Oregon State	D3-12	D3-Chi-12
24 Hayden, Kelvin	CB	6-0	195	8	Illinois	FA-Atl-12	D2-Ind-05
26 Jennings, Tim	CB	5-8	185	7	Georgia	FA-Ind-10	D2-Ind-06
27 McManis, Sherrick	CB	6-1	193	3	Northwestern	T-Hou-12	D5-Hou-10
20 Steltz, Craig	S	6-1	210	5	LSU	D4-08	D4-Chi-08
33 Tillman, Charles	CB	6-2	198	10	UL Lafayette	D2-03	D2-Chi-03
37 Walters, Anthony	S	6-1	207	2	Delaware	FA-11	FA-Chi-11
21 Wright, Major	S	5-11	204	3	Florida	D3-10	D3-Chi-10
36 Zbikowski, Tom	S	5-11	200	5	Notre Dame	FA-Ind-13	D3b-Bal-08
SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
9 Gould, Robbie	K	6-0	185	8	Penn State	FA-Bal-05	FA-NE-05
65 Mannelly, Patrick	LS	6-5	265	15	Duke	D6b-98	D6b-Chi-98
8 Podlesh, Adam	P	5-11	200	6	Maryland	FA-Jac-11	D4-Jac-07
36 Signor, Austin	K	6-4	230	1	Eastern Illinois	FA-13	FA-Chi-13

Steve Woltmann

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	15	Brandon Marshall
	17	Alshon Jeffery
WR	80	Earl Bennett
	23	Devin Hester
LT	74	Jermon Bushrod
	76	Cory Brandon
LG	75	Kyle Long (R)
	78	James Brown
C	63	Roberto Garza
	70	Edwin Williams
RG	68	Matt Slauson
	72	Gabe Carimi
RT	79	Jonathan Scott
	73	J'Marcus Webb
TE	83	Martellus Bennett
	87	Steve Maneri
QB	6	Jay Cutler
	12	Josh McCown
FB	48	Evan Rodriguez
	45	Harvey Unga
RB	22	Matt Forté
	29	Michael Bush

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
LE	98	Corey Wootton
	99	Shea McClellin
DT	69	Henry Melton
	75	Andre Fluellen
NT	92	Stephen Paea
	93	Nate Collins
RE	90	Julius Peppers
	67	Kyle Moore
WLB	55	Lance Briggs
		Khaseem Greene (R)
MLB	58	D.J. Williams
		Jon Bostic (R)
SLB	50	James Anderson
	97	J.T. Thomas
CB	26	Tim Jennings
	24	Kelvin Hayden
CB	33	Charles Tillman
	38	Zack Bowman
SS	21	Major Wright
	36	Tom Zbikowski
FS	47	Chris Conte
	35	Brandon Hardin

SPECIALISTS

K	9	Robbie Gould
P	8	Adam Podlesh
KR	23	Devin Hester
PR	23	Devin Hester

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
Alshon Jeffery, WR

DEEP-SLEEPER
Marquess Wilson, WR

OVERVALUED
Julius Peppers, DE

TOP ROOKIE
Jon Bostic, LB

BOUNCE-BACK
Jay Cutler, QB

TOP IDP
Lance Briggs, LB

For more Fantasy, visit **AthlonSports.com/fantasy** or follow **@AthlonSports** on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 8	Cincinnati	1:00	10-6	332.7 (22)	319.7 (6)	24.4 (12)	20.0 (8)
2	Sept. 15	Minnesota	1:00	10-6	336.6 (20)	350.0 (16)	23.7 (14)	21.8 (14)
3	Sept. 22	at Pittsburgh	8:30	8-8	332.7 (21)	275.8 (1)	21.0 (22)	19.6 (6)
4	Sept. 29	at Detroit	1:00	4-12	408.8 (3)	341.1 (13)	23.2 (17)	27.3 (27)
5	Oct. 6	New Orleans	1:00	7-9	410.9 (2)	440.1 (32)	28.8 (3)	28.4 (31)
6	Oct. 10	N.Y. Giants (Thu.)	8:25	9-7	355.4 (14)	383.4 (31)	26.8 (6)	21.5 (12)
7	Oct. 20	at Washington	1:00	10-6	383.2 (5)	377.7 (28)	27.2 (4)	24.2 (22)
8		BYE						
9	Nov. 4	at Green Bay (Mon.)	8:40	11-5	359.4 (13)	336.8 (11)	27.1 (5)	21.0 (11)
10	Nov. 10	Detroit	1:00	4-12	408.8 (3)	341.1 (13)	23.2 (17)	27.3 (27)
11	Nov. 17	Baltimore	1:00	10-6	352.5 (16)	350.9 (17)	24.9 (10)	21.5 (12)
12	Nov. 24	at St. Louis	1:00	7-8-1	329.0 (23)	342.6 (14)	18.7 (25)	21.8 (14)
13	Dec. 1	at Minnesota	1:00	10-6	336.6 (20)	350.0 (16)	23.7 (14)	21.8 (14)
14	Dec. 9	Dallas (Mon.)	8:40	8-8	374.6 (6)	355.4 (19)	23.5 (15)	25.0 (24)
15	Dec. 15	at Cleveland	1:00	5-11	314.2 (25)	363.8 (23)	18.9 (24)	23.0 (19)
16	Dec. 22	at Philadelphia	1:00	4-12	354.1 (15)	343.2 (15)	17.5 (29)	27.8 (29)
17	Dec. 29	Green Bay	1:00	11-5	359.4 (13)	336.8 (11)	27.1 (5)	21.0 (11)

DETROIT LIONS

NFC NORTH FORECAST **4**

So maybe the Detroit Lions haven't arrived, after all. A year after making the playoffs for the first time since 1999, they found themselves back in the NFC North cellar again, wondering what happened to all the momentum they'd built in the three years since that infamous 0–16 season. Injuries and off-field distractions, including several player arrests, helped derail a team that overestimated its talent level and underestimated the effects of complacency. That, coupled with a salary-cap crunch, prompted major changes heading into 2013, with general manager Martin Mayhew and head coach Jim Schwartz — a year after signing a contract extension — both on the hot seat. The team brought in a new front office voice in former Denver Broncos GM Brian Xanders, revamped the coaching staff with a half-dozen new assistants, and made a big splash early in free agency, adding three new starters, including running back Reggie Bush. "Anytime you only win four games, you better have a sense of urgency that you better get it turned around," Mayhew says. "You better get it going in the right direction quickly."

See more cheerleaders by visiting AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

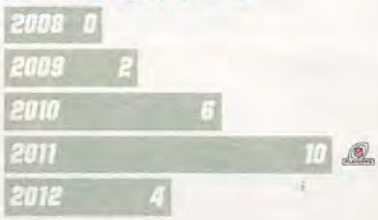
THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER/CHAIRMAN: William Clay Ford
VICE CHAIRMAN: William Clay Ford, Jr.
PRESIDENT: Tom Lewand
EXECUTIVE VP OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS/GM: Martin Mayhew
STADIUM: Ford Field (65,000)
SURFACE: FieldTurf
WEBSITE: www.detroitlions.com
TICKETS: 313-262-2011
TRAINING CAMP: Detroit Lions Training Facility (Allen Park, Mich.)

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Jim Schwartz
RECORD WITH TEAM: 22-42
CAREER RECORD: 22-42
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Scott Linehan
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Gunther Cunningham

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



MATTHEW STAFFORD, QB

OFFENSE Matthew Stafford is due for a big payday whenever he and the Lions can agree to terms on a contract extension. But Stafford, the No. 1 overall pick in 2009 who has two years left on his record-setting rookie contract, is due for a bounce-back year on the field, too. Stafford followed a record-breaking 2011 with some more eye-popping statistics in 2012. But a new NFL record for pass attempts in a season (727, surpassing Drew Bledsoe's 1994 total of 691) only highlighted the Lions' offensive struggles, as injuries — and insubordination, in Titus Young's case — decimated the receiving corps, and the running game lacked any explosiveness behind an aging offensive line.

Mayhew says counting on Jahvid Best to return from his concussions was "probably my biggest mistake," and the GM moved quickly to address that by making the Bush signing the top priority in March. The dynamic back provides a big-play threat out of the backfield, and someone who'll have defensive coordinators "sitting there scratching their heads and wondering where he's going to be, where he's going to line up," says Stafford. At the very least, he'll give offensive coordinator Scott Linehan more flexibility in his play-calling as he tries to free up Calvin Johnson, who still somehow managed to break Jerry Rice's receiving yardage record last season despite being double- and triple-teamed.

There should be opportunities for Mikel Leshoure, a bigger back two years removed from a torn Achilles, and Joique Bell, a pleasant surprise in his first significant NFL action last year.

Finding another wideout to replace Young, whose erratic behavior finally got him released in February, remained on Mayhew's to-do list, particularly with Nate Burleson coming off a broken leg and Ryan Broyles rehabbing another torn ACL this offseason. And the Lions need better production and fewer drops from tight ends Brandon Pettigrew and Tony Scheffler.

The biggest question mark, though, is on the offensive line. After three years with a static starting five, the Lions must replace both tackles and the right guard. Riley Reiff, last year's first-round choice who was used mostly in jumbo packages as a rookie, should get the nod at left tackle. Unproven backups Corey Hilliard and Jason Fox get first crack on the right side. Rookie Larry Warford could start immediately at right guard ahead of Rodney Austin and Bill Nagy. Nagy, claimed off injury waivers from Dallas last summer, also could push undersized veteran center Dominic Raiola, one of the few remaining holdovers from the Matt Millen era.

DEFENSE For the Lions' defense, it's time to bring the noise. And that'll start up front, where rookie end Ziggy Ansah now gives the Lions three top-15 picks on the defensive line from the last four draft classes. Alongside tackles Ndamukong Suh and Nick Fairley, Ansah will be asked to make an immediate impact this fall, and he won't be asked kindly. Veteran line coach Jim Washburn, one of the NFL's more vocal and intense characters, was brought in by Schwartz to help get more out of the wide-nine technique both men swear by. Jason Jones arrives from Seattle as a free agent to help replace the departed Cliff Avril and Kyle Vanden Bosch. With Jones, Ansah, fourth-round pick Devin Taylor and fourth-year pro Willie Young, the Lions will have four pass rushers who stand 6'5" or taller.

Inside is where the Lions boast a pair of potential Pro Bowlers. Suh bounced back in a big way last season, and Fairley, after a pair of offseason arrests, showed more of the talent he'd flashed in an injury-plagued rookie season.

Johnson, Stafford: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Fan: AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Senior talent The Lions' staff coached in the Senior Bowl in 2010 but didn't draft a single participant. Tapped again to coach it this year, they ended up drafting three players from their Senior Bowl roster — Ziggy Ansah, Larry Warford and Michael Williams. "There were guys there (in 2010) that we looked at and we're like, 'We won't draft him, won't draft him, or him,' and that was how it went," GM Martin Mayhew says. "This time, we went into it open-minded and there were just a bunch of guys that we really liked." What changed? Well, it helped that they coached the South team this time, after coaching the North before. "There may be something to that," Mayhew laughed. "The South team's usually pretty stacked."

Fairley optimistic Veteran linebacker Stephen Tulloch saw — and heard — a new Nick Fairley when offseason workouts resumed in mid-April. The third-year pro looked to be in better shape, and sounded more focused, talking about team goals. "I said, 'Nick, you going to Hawaii this year?'" Tulloch says, referring to the Pro Bowl. "He said, 'No, Tully, I'm going to New York.'" Site of this year's Super Bowl.

Going viral The Lions made headlines with the signing of kicker Havard Rugland, the Norwegian YouTube sensation whose highlight reel includes a variety of trick shots. "We know he can kick balls into garbage cans and put it on a boat, but he has to be able to actually play football," Mayhew says of Rugland, who has never played organized football before. "We hope he can do that." Truth is, they signed him in part because he's a left-footed kicker to get reps behind new starter David Akers, also a lefty.

The other Mike Williams Tight ends coach Bobby Johnson wanted to make one thing clear after his team selected Michael Williams in the seventh round: Don't confuse him with former Lions receiver Mike Williams, a top-10 bust from the 2005 draft. "We had to set the record straight on players drafted by the Lions named Mike Williams," Johnson said. "He is Michael Williams. If you refer to him as Mike, it has to be proceeded by big: 'Big Mike.'

Life after football Time will tell if rookie linebacker Brandon Hepburn can make an NFL roster. But if not, he's got a fallback option: Curing cancer. The Lions' seventh-round pick graduated with a degree in biochemistry from Florida A&M and spent last summer on an internship killing cancer cells in rats with copper-loaded nano particles.

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
K	David Akers	San Francisco
RB	Reggie Bush	Miami
DE	Jason Jones	Seattle
DT	C.J. Mosley	Jacksonville
S	Glover Quin	Houston

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
DE	Cliff Avril	Seattle
T	Gosder Cherilus	Indianapolis
LB	Justin Durant	Dallas
K	Jason Hanson	Retired
DE	Lawrence Jackson	Minnesota
CB	Jacob Lacey	Minnesota
PR/KR	Stefan Logan	Free Agent
G	Stephen Peterman	N.Y. Jets
DE	Kyle Vanden Bosch	Free Agent
WR	Titus Young	Free Agent

CALVIN JOHNSON, WR

2012 RESULTS (4–12)

Sept. 9	St. Louis	W	27–23
Sept. 16	at San Francisco	L	19–27
Sept. 23	at Tennessee (ot)	L	41–44
Sept. 30	Minnesota	L	13–20
Oct. 14	at Philadelphia (ot)	W	26–23
Oct. 22	at Chicago	L	7–13
Oct. 28	Seattle	W	28–24
Nov. 4	at Jacksonville	W	31–14
Nov. 11	at Minnesota	L	24–34
Nov. 18	Green Bay	L	20–24
Nov. 22	Houston (ot)	L	31–34
Dec. 2	Indianapolis	L	33–35
Dec. 9	at Green Bay	L	20–27
Dec. 16	at Arizona	L	10–38
Dec. 22	Atlanta	L	18–31
Dec. 30	Chicago	L	24–26

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Matthew Stafford	727	435	4,967	20	17
Shaun Hill	13	10	172	2	0
RUSHING	**ATT**		**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Mikel Leshoure	215		798	3.7	9
Joique Bell	82		414	5.0	3
Kevin Smith	37		134	3.6	1
RECEIVING	**REC**		**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Calvin Johnson	122		1,964	16.1	5
Brandon Pettigrew	59		567	9.6	3
Joique Bell	52		485	9.3	0
Tony Scheffler	42		504	12.0	1
Titus Young	33		383	11.6	4

KICKING: Jason Hanson, 32-36 FGs, 38-38 XPs, 134 points
TACKLES: Stephen Tulloch, 112; Justin Durant, 103
SACKS: Cliff Avril, 9.5; Ndamukong Suh, 8
INTERCEPTIONS: Don Carey, 2; Chris Houston, 2
FORCED FUMBLES: Three players tied with 2

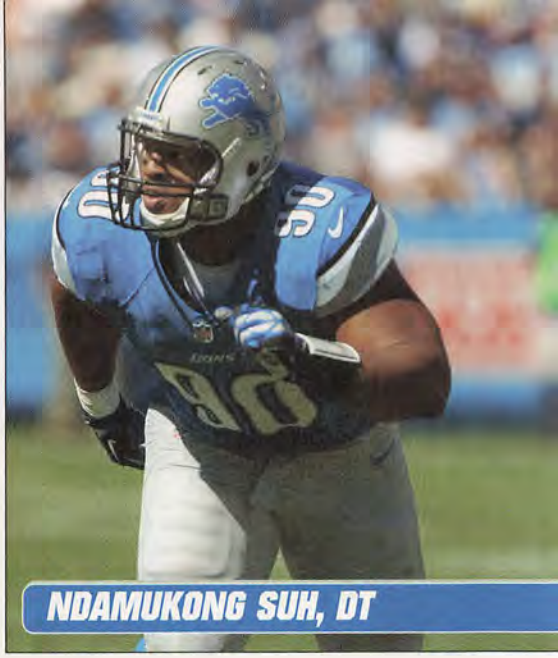
2012 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	408.8	3	2
Rushing	100.8	23	12
Passing	307.9	2	2
Scoring	23.2	17	12
Third Down %	42.5	8	5
Punt Returns	8.6	22	9
Kick Returns	20.0	31	15

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	341.1	13	7
Rushing	118.1	16	9
Passing	223.1	14	8
Scoring	27.3	27	14
Interceptions	11	T23	T12
Sacks	34.0	T20	T9
Turnover Differential	-16	30	15

The defense as a whole simply didn't make many big plays. Some of the blame falls on the linebackers, who had one interception all season. Stephen Tulloch and DeAndre Levy are back, with Ashlee Palmer and Tahir Whitehead likely fighting for the other starting job outside.

But most of the breakdowns came from a secondary that again got stuck in an injury-generated revolving door. Safety Louis Delmas, plagued by knee tendinitis, played in only eight games, but he remains one of the team's emotional leaders. For the first time in his five-year career, he'll also have a first-rate partner, as the Lions made Houston's Glover Quin — a versatile and durable former cornerback the Texans wanted to keep — their other top priority in free agency. Chris Houston returns to man one corner spot, while rookie second-round pick Darius Slay, the fastest cornerback in this year's draft, should challenge Bill Bentley for the other starting job.


NDAMUKONG SUH, DT

SPECIALISTS There's a new special teams coordinator (John Bonamego) and a completely new look. For the first time since 1992, the Lions will have a new kicker. Jason Hanson opted for retirement rather than a new contract for the veteran minimum, and the Lions signed a relative youngster in 38-year-old David Akers to replace him. Akers, a six-time Pro Bowler, has something prove after lingering issues from hernia surgery contributed to inconsistent results last season in San Francisco. Hanson's longtime holder, punter Nick Harris, is gone, too, after the Lions ranked last in the NFL in net punting average in 2012. His replacement looks to be rookie Sam Martin. The return game will be in new hands, too, with several options on the roster — Mike Thomas, Bell and Bush, among others — and a likely free agent fix to come.

FINAL ANALYSIS No more excuses. That's the bottom line in Detroit, where the decision-makers have had plenty of time to retrofit their roster, and the premium talent has had enough time to develop. But after last year's pratfall, and the veteran departures that followed, the big question might be whether the young stars are ready to lead, and not just perform.

NFL DRAFT 2013 LIONS IN THE DRAFT

D

RD PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1. Ziggy Ansah	DE	6-5	271	BYU
2. Darius Slay	CB	6-0	192	Mississippi State
3. Larry Warford	G	6-3	332	Kentucky
4. Devin Taylor	DE	6-7	266	South Carolina
5. Sam Martin	P	6-1	205	Appalachian State
6. Corey Fuller	WR	6-2	204	Virginia Tech
6. Theo Riddick	RB	5-11	200	Notre Dame
7. Michael Williams	TE	6-5	278	Alabama
7. Brandon Hepburn	LB	6-2	240	Florida A&M

Ziggy Ansah was the pick at No. 5 despite his limited college experience and production, in large part due to the Lions' work with him at the Senior Bowl. He and Devin Taylor boast rare size and athleticism. Larry Warford's a mammoth anchor at right guard. Darius Slay is coming off a knee injury but has the speed the Lions covet in a corner. Michael Williams is the likely replacement for Will Heller as the blocking tight end, while Corey Fuller's another raw talent who could develop into a No. 2 wideout. Theo Riddick's a versatile third down back but lacks speed. The Lions jumped at the chance to add Sam Martin's live leg. Brandon Hepburn, a biochemistry major, might be one of the smartest players in the draft, if nothing else.

Suh: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Ansah: Stacy Revere/Getty Images

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
14 Hill, Shaun	QB	6-3	220	11	Maryland	T-SF-10	FA-Min-02
17 Moore, Kellen	QB	6-0	197	1	Boise State	FA-12	FA-Det-12
9 Stafford, Matthew	QB	6-3	232	4	Georgia	D1a-09	D1a-Det-09
RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
35 Bell, Joique	RB	5-11	220	2	Wayne State	FA-11	FA-Buf-10
44 Best, Jahvid	RB	5-10	199	3	California	D1b-10	D1b-Det-10
21 Bush, Reggie	RB	6-0	203	7	USC	FA-Mia-13	D1-NO-06
45 Chapas, Shaun	FB	6-2	244	1	Georgia	FA-12	D7-Dal-11
25 Leshoure, Mikel	RB	6-0	233	2	Illinois	D2b-11	D2b-Det-11
43 Moore, Devin	RB	5-9	190	2	Wyoming	FA-12	FA-Sea-09
RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
84 Broyles, Ryan	WR	5-10	188	1	Oklahoma	D2-12	D2-Det-12
13 Burleson, Nate	WR	6-0	198	10	Nevada	FA-Sea-10	D3-Min-03
18 Durham, Kris	WR	6-6	216	2	Georgia	FA-12	D4-Sea-11
83 Edwards, Patrick	WR	5-9	175	1	Houston	FA-12	FA-Det-12
81 Johnson, Calvin	WR	6-5	236	6	Georgia Tech	D1-07	D1-Det-07
46 Overbay, Nathan	TE	6-5	270	1	Eastern Washington	FA-11	FA-Den-10
87 Pettigrew, Brandon	TE	6-5	265	4	Oklahoma State	D1b-09	D1b-Det-09
80 Robiskie, Brian	WR	6-4	212	4	Ohio State	FA-12	D2-Cle-09
85 Scheffler, Tony	TE	6-5	255	7	Western Michigan	T-Den-10	D2-Den-06
11 Thomas, Devin	WR	6-2	221	4	Michigan State	FA-13	D2-Was-08
19 Thomas, Mike	WR	5-8	198	4	Arizona	T-Jac-12	D4-Jac-09
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
74 Austin, Rodney	G	6-4	311	1	Elon	FA-12	FA-Det-12
70 Fox, Jason	T	6-6	314	3	Miami	D4-10	D4-Det-10
65 Gandy, Dylan	C	6-3	295	7	Texas Tech	FA-09	D4-Ind-05
Hardman, Derek	T	6-6	300	3	Eastern Kentucky	W-TB-13	FA-TB-10
78 Hilliard, Corey	T	6-6	300	4	Oklahoma State	FA-09	D6-NE-07
61 Nagy, Bill	G	6-3	308	2	Wisconsin	W-Dal-12	D7-Dal-11
51 Raiola, Dominic	C	6-1	295	12	Nebraska	D2a-01	D2a-Det-01
71 Reiff, Riley	T	6-6	313	1	Iowa	D1-12	D1-Det-12
67 Sims, Rob	G	6-3	312	7	Ohio State	T-Sea-10	D4-Sea-06
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
98 Fairley, Nick	DT	6-4	298	2	Auburn	D1-11	D1-Det-11
91 Jones, Jason	DE	6-5	276	5	Eastern Michigan	FA-Sea-13	D2-Ten-08
97 Lewis, Ronnell	DE	6-2	253	1	Oklahoma	D4-12	D4-Det-12
Mosley, C.J.	DT	6-2	310	8	Missouri	FA-Jac-13	D6-Min-05
95 Nwagbuo, Ogemdi	DT	6-4	312	5	Michigan State	FA-Car-12	FA-NYG-08
90 Suh, Ndamukong	DT	6-4	307	3	Nebraska	D1a-10	D1a-Det-10
79 Young, Willie	DE	6-5	251	3	NC State	D7a-10	D7a-Det-10
LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
Greenwood, Cory	LB	6-2	235	3	Concordia	W-KC-13	FA-KC-10
54 Levy, DeAndre	LB	6-2	238	4	Wisconsin	D3a-09	D3a-Det-09
50 Lewis, Travis	LB	6-2	222	1	Oklahoma	D7-12	D7-Det-12
47 Messina, Carmen	LB	6-2	236	1	New Mexico	FA-12	FA-Det-12
58 Palmer, Ashlee	LB	6-1	236	4	Ole Miss	W-Buf-10	FA-Buf-09
55 Tulloch, Stephen	LB	5-11	240	7	NC State	FA-Ten-11	D4-Ten-06
59 Whitehead, Tahir	LB	6-2	228	1	Temple	D5a-12	D5a-Det-12
DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
28 Bentley, Bill	CB	5-10	176	1	UL Lafayette	D3-12	D3-Det-12
38 Black, Conroy	CB	6-0	187	1	Utah	FA-12	FA-Oak-12
32 Carey, Don	S	5-11	192	4	Norfolk State	FA-12	D6-Cle-09
24 Coleman, Erik	S	5-10	207	9	Washington State	FA-11	D5-NYJ-04
26 Delmas, Louis	S	5-11	202	4	Western Michigan	D2-09	D2-Det-09
36 Green, Jonte	CB	6-0	184	1	New Mexico State	D6-12	D6-Det-12
33 Greenwood, Chris	CB	6-1	193	1	Albion	D5b-12	D5b-Det-12
23 Houston, Chris	CB	5-11	178	6	Arkansas	T-Atl-10	D2-Atl-07
46 Johnson, Domonique	DB	6-1	191	4	Jackson State	FA-13	FA-Den-09
27 Quin, Glover	S	6-0	207	4	New Mexico	FA-Hou-13	D4a-Hou-09
39 Silva, Ricardo	S	6-3	225	1	Hampton	FA-11	FA-Det-11
40 Smith, Lionel	CB	5-11	184	1	Texas A&M	FA-12	FA-Dal-12
42 Spievey, Amari	S	5-11	195	3	Iowa	D3-10	D3-Det-10
29 Wendling, John	S	6-1	222	6	Wyoming	FA-10	D6-Buf-07
SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
2 Akers, David	K	5-10	200	14	Louisville	FA-SF-13	FA-Car-97
8 Clingan, Blake	P	6-3	229	1	UCF	FA-13	FA-Det-13
48 Muhlbach, Don	LS	6-4	265	9	Texas A&M	FA-04	FA-Bal-04
3 Rugland, Havard	K	6-2	245	1	Aalgaard	FA-13	FA-Det-13

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	81	Calvin Johnson
	84	Ryan Broyles
WR	13	Nate Burleson
	19	Mike Thomas
LT	71	Riley Reiff
	70	Jason Fox
LG	67	Rob Sims
	74	Rodney Austin
C	51	Dominic Raiola
	65	Dylan Gandy
RG		Larry Warford (R)
	61	Bill Nagy
RT	78	Corey Hilliard
	70	Jason Fox
TE	87	Brandon Pettigrew
		Michael Williams (R)
TE	85	Tony Scheffler
	46	Nathan Overbay
QB	9	Matthew Stafford
	14	Shaun Hill
RB	21	Reggie Bush
	25	Mikel Leshoure

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	91	Jason Jones
	79	Willie Young
DT	90	Ndamukong Suh
		C.J. Mosley
DT	98	Nick Fairley
	95	Ogemdi Nwagbuo
DE		Ziggy Ansah (R)
		Devin Taylor (R)
OLB	54	DeAndre Levy
	50	Travis Lewis
MLB	55	Stephen Tulloch
		Brandon Hepburn (R)
OLB	58	Ashlee Palmer
	59	Tahir Whitehead
CB	23	Chris Houston
	36	Jonte Green
CB	28	Bill Bentley
		Darius Slay (R)
FS	26	Louis Delmas
	32	Don Carey
SS	27	Glover Quin
	42	Amari Spievey

SPECIALISTS

K	2	David Akers
P		Sam Martin (R)

KR	35	Joique Bell
PR	19	Mike Thomas

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
Ryan Broyles, WR

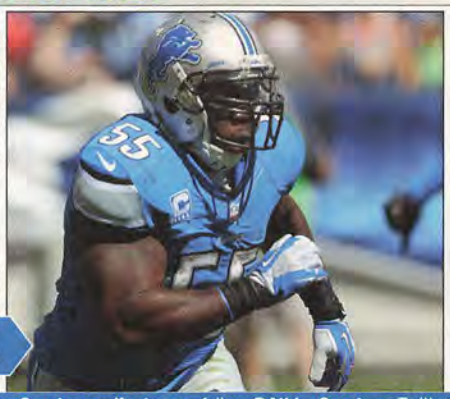
DEEP-SLEEPER
Joique Bell, RB

OVERVALUED
Brandon Pettigrew, TE

TOP ROOKIE
Ziggy Ansah, DE

BOUNCE-BACK
Matthew Stafford, QB

TOP IDP
Stephen Tulloch, LB



For more Fantasy, visit **AthlonSports.com/fantasy** or follow **@AthlonSports** on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 8	Minnesota	1:00	10-6	336.6 (20)	350.0 (16)	23.7 (14)	21.8 (14)
2	Sept. 15	at Arizona	4:05	5-11	263.1 (32)	337.8 (12)	15.6 (31)	22.3 (17)
3	Sept. 22	at Washington	1:00	10-6	383.2 (5)	377.7 (28)	27.2 (4)	24.2 (22)
4	Sept. 29	Chicago	1:00	10-6	310.6 (28)	315.6 (5)	23.4 (16)	17.3 (3)
5	Oct. 6	at Green Bay	1:00	11-5	359.4 (13)	336.8 (11)	27.1 (5)	21.0 (11)
6	Oct. 13	at Cleveland	1:00	5-11	314.2 (25)	363.8 (23)	18.9 (24)	23.0 (19)
7	Oct. 20	Cincinnati	1:00	10-6	332.7 (22)	319.7 (6)	24.4 (12)	20.0 (8)
8	Oct. 27	Dallas	1:00	8-8	374.6 (6)	355.4 (19)	23.5 (15)	25.0 (24)
9		BYE						
10	Nov. 10	at Chicago	1:00	10-6	310.6 (28)	315.6 (5)	23.4 (16)	17.3 (3)
11	Nov. 17	at Pittsburgh	1:00	8-8	332.7 (21)	275.8 (1)	21.0 (22)	19.6 (6)
12	Nov. 24	Tampa Bay	1:00	7-9	363.8 (9)	379.9 (29)	24.3 (13)	24.6 (23)
13	Nov. 28	Green Bay (Thu.)	12:30	11-5	359.4 (13)	336.8 (11)	27.1 (5)	21.0 (11)
14	Dec. 8	at Philadelphia	1:00	4-12	354.1 (15)	343.2 (15)	17.5 (29)	27.8 (29)
15	Dec. 16	Baltimore (Mon.)	8:40	10-6	352.5 (16)	350.9 (17)	24.9 (10)	21.5 (12)
16	Dec. 22	N.Y. Giants	4:05	9-7	355.4 (14)	383.4 (31)	26.8 (6)	21.5 (12)
17	Dec. 29	at Minnesota	1:00	10-6	336.6 (20)	350.0 (16)	23.7 (14)	21.8 (14)

GREEN BAY PACKERS

NFC NORTH FORECAST **1**

See more cheerleaders by visiting AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

THE ORGANIZATION

PRESIDENT/CEO: Mark Murphy
EXECUTIVE VP/GENERAL MANAGER: Ted Thompson
STADIUM: Lambeau Field (79,594)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.packers.com
TICKETS: 920-569-7501
TRAINING CAMP: St. Norbert College (De Pere, Wis.)

Having paid out a whopping $55 million in signing bonuses to quarterback Aaron Rodgers and outside linebacker Clay Matthews, the Green Bay Packers successfully locked up their two biggest stars. But they have also caused a segment of their passionate fan base to worry that with so much money tied to only two players, the salary-cap ramifications will be disastrous.

But while Rodgers (five years, $110 million) and Matthews (five years, $66 million) certainly didn't come cheap, general manager Ted Thompson's annual draft-and-develop youth movement, a salary cap that won't be flat forever and the structure of each deal mean that the Packers will remain Super Bowl contenders as long as their $176 million men remain healthy. "I like where we're at," Rodgers says. "Obviously, there were some (fans concerned) about not doing a lot in free agency. (But) the Packer way (is) where you draft a guy in your system."

For yet another offseason, Thompson avoided signing any outside unrestricted free agents, marshaling his resources to pay his stars and again relying on the draft to fill holes. And there were still holes that needed to be filled.

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Mike McCarthy
RECORD WITH TEAM: 74-38
CAREER RECORD: 74-38
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Tom Clements
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Dom Capers

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

CLAY MATTHEWS, LB

OFFENSE Coach Mike McCarthy loves to call his offense "quarterback driven," but for the first time since Ryan Grant put together back-to-back 1,200-yard rushing seasons in 2008 and 2009, Rodgers might not have to be behind the wheel all the time. There's no doubt that at age 29 he is on top of his game, even though he wasn't as statistically dominant in 2012 as he was when he won the NFL MVP in 2011. He's as good as it gets against the blitz, but the problem for the Packers' offense last year was the steady diet of Cover-2 defenses it saw, as opponents had no reason to fear the running game.

That could finally change after the team drafted Alabama's Eddie Lacy in the second round and UCLA's Johnathan Franklin in the fourth. In his previous eight drafts, Thompson had selected a total of four running backs, so this would indicate a shift in offensive philosophy. Perhaps McCarthy can do for Rodgers what Mike Sherman did for Brett Favre in the early 2000s, when Pro Bowl running back Ahman Green improved the QB's quality of life. McCarthy says he made some "scheme adjustments" even before the draft, clearly hoping that a respectable running game will mean that Rodgers won't see two deep safeties every time he drops back.

While the free agent defection of Greg Jennings and the retirement of Donald Driver erased two beloved names from the depth chart at receiver, Rodgers still has plenty of pass-catching talent around him. Jordy Nelson, Randall Cobb and James Jones still make for a pretty impressive 1-2-3 combination if all three can stay healthy. Cobb, in his second NFL season, led the Packers in receiving in 2012 with 80 catches for 954 yards and eight touchdowns in regular-season play; Jones set career highs in 2012 in receptions (64), yards (784) and touchdowns (an NFL-best 14); and when Nelson was healthy for a full 2011, he caught 68 passes for 1,263 yards and 15 touchdowns. Unheralded Jarrett Boykin also caught the quarterback's eye as the No. 6 receiver last year and could blossom. The team also paid starting tight end Jermichael Finley his $3 million roster bonus on March 26, meaning he's back for his sixth season in Green Bay with an $8.25 million cap number — and even higher expectations.

The offensive line must improve. Not only did the unit allow Rodgers to be sacked 51 times last season, but the running game also ranked No. 20 in yards per game and No. 22 in yards per rush. At center, Evan Dietrich-Smith is under the microscope after assuming the starting job from now-retired Jeff Saturday late in the regular season.

DEFENSE On defense, the unit is trying to get past its epic season-ending embarrassment, as the San Francisco 49ers rolled up 579 yards — and Colin Kaepernick ran for more yards than any quarterback in a game in NFL history (181) — in a 45–31 NFC Divisional Playoff thrashing. The healing must start in the front seven. Even as good as Matthews is, there are still issues on the line. Defensive end Mike Neal's emergence was encouraging — playing just 322 snaps as situational pass-rusher, he finished with 4.5 sacks — but he, like big-bodied inside guys Ryan Pickett and B.J. Raji, is going into the final year of his contract. The addition of first-round pick Datone Jones should help tremendously, adding some much-needed speed.

Matthews' new deal was not the only move at linebacker. A.J. Hawk agreed to a pay cut; Brad Jones re-upped for three years, $11.75 million; Robert Francois re-signed as a restricted free agent; and unrestricted free agent Erik Walden (Indianapolis) and untendered restricted free

Rodgers: AP Photo/David Stluka; Matthews: Brian Ebner; Cheer: AP Photo/Scott Boehm

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Nice negotiations Aaron Rodgers watched from afar as his friend Drew Brees' negotiations with the New Orleans Saints got ugly before Brees' five-year, $100 million deal in July 2012. He did not want a repeat. "That was important to me, but I think it was natural in this situation because there's a very good relationship there (with the Packers) and it was really the Packers wanting to make this happen," Rodgers says of avoiding contentious negotiations. "This was different in the fact that there was two years left on my deal, so they had to want to make this happen. It didn't matter where we were at or what ideas we had, it had to be the Packers being on board with this, and for that I thank them. It's exciting knowing I'll have the opportunity to finish my career here and be a Packer for life."

Nice suit The day before Rodgers inked his extension, a story popped up about one of his old suits being auctioned off. But this just wasn't any suit; it was the one Rodgers wore at the 2005 NFL Draft, which fans saw often as he sat in the green room waiting all day to be picked by the Packers at No. 24. Rodgers had donated the suit to Goodwill, and a shopper bought it and put it up for auction. Asked after getting his new contract if he would buy back his suit, Rodgers laughed: "I was waiting for that question," he said. "I'm thinking about it. That is actually my suit."

Road trip In an effort to solve the read-option riddle, coach Mike McCarthy sent his defensive coaching staff to Texas A&M in March to spend a day with coach Kevin Sumlin and his staff. Not only did the staff get plenty of football-related information out of its time with Sumlin's staff, but McCarthy said the trip had other benefits, too. "It went great. Frankly, the fact the defensive staff was on the road together, the camaraderie of the trip is a real benefit," McCarthy said. "Anytime you put a group of six to eight coaches on a plane, in vans, driving to a school — they talked football from the time they walked into the airport and were talking football on the way out. That's the kind of stuff every coach misses."

Friends, enemies If the Packers struggle against Greg Jennings, they can thank another ex-teammate who made the same Green Bay-to-Minnesota move — Brett Favre. Jennings said he talked with Favre a couple of times before deciding to sign. "We were literally, as I got off the plane and (Vikings offensive coordinator Bill) Musgrave walked up to me, I'm on the phone with Brett," Jennings told KFAN radio. "We talked two or three times throughout this process, a lot via text and then on the phone. (Favre) shot me straight. I knew if there was one person that would shoot me straight and tell me exactly what I wanted to hear and the things I possibly didn't want to hear, it'd be Brett. He did that for me. He's excited, I'm excited, and we're moving forward."

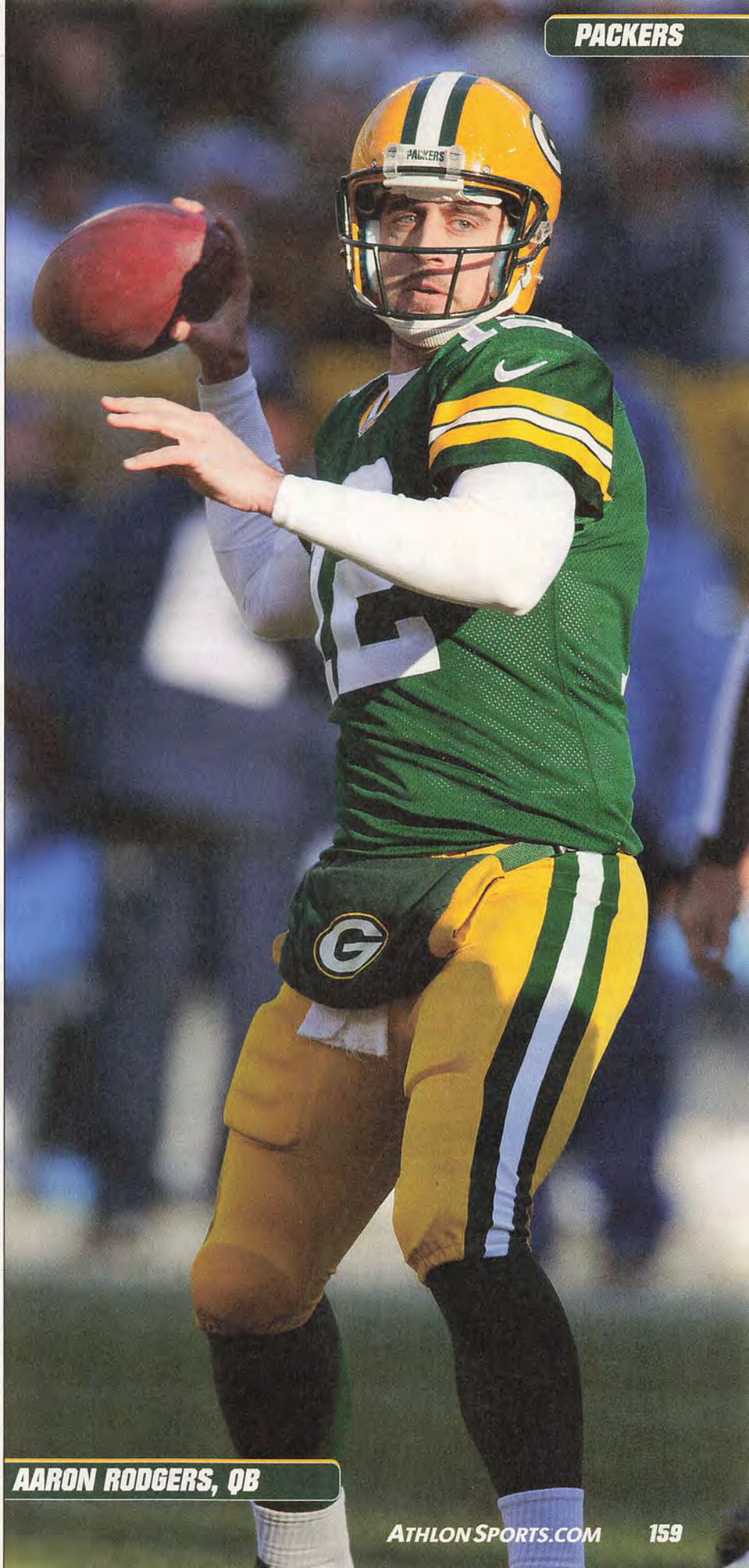
PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
TE	Matthew Mulligan	St. Louis

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
WR	Greg Jennings	Minnesota
C	Jeff Saturday	Retired
LB	Erik Walden	Indianapolis
S	Charles Woodson	Free Agent



AARON RODGERS, QB

2012 RESULTS (11–5)

Sept. 9	San Francisco	L	22–30
Sept. 13	Chicago	W	23–10
Sept. 24	at Seattle	L	12–14
Sept. 30	New Orleans	W	28–27
Oct. 7	at Indianapolis	L	27–30
Oct. 14	at Houston	W	42–24
Oct. 21	at St. Louis	W	30–20
Oct. 28	Jacksonville	W	24–15
Nov. 4	Arizona	W	31–17
Nov. 18	at Detroit	W	24–20
Nov. 25	at N.Y. Giants	L	10–38
Dec. 2	Minnesota	W	23–14
Dec. 9	Detroit	W	27–20
Dec. 16	at Chicago	W	21–13
Dec. 23	Tennessee	W	55–7
Dec. 30	at Minnesota	L	34–37
Postseason			
Jan. 5	Minnesota	W	24–10
Jan. 12	at San Francisco	L	31–45

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Aaron Rodgers	552	371	4,295	39	8
Graham Harrell	4	2	20	0	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Alex Green	135	464	3.4	0
Cedric Benson	71	248	3.5	1
James Starks	71	255	3.6	1
Aaron Rodgers	54	259	4.8	2

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Randall Cobb	80	954	11.9	8
James Jones	64	784	12.3	14
Jermichael Finley	61	667	10.9	2
Jordy Nelson	49	745	15.2	7

KICKING: Mason Crosby, 21-33 FGs, 50-50 XPs, 113 points
TACKLES: Morgan Burnett, 123; A.J. Hawk, 120
SACKS: Clay Matthews, 13; Mike Neal 4.5
INTERCEPTIONS: Casey Hayward, 6; Sam Shields, 3
FORCED FUMBLES: Morgan Burnett, 2

2012 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	359.4	13	9
Rushing	106.4	20	11
Passing	253.1	9	5
Scoring	27.1	5	3
Third Down %	42.3	9	6
Punt Returns	11.0	8	2
Kick Returns	25.0	10	4

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	336.8	11	5
Rushing	118.5	17	10
Passing	218.2	11	6
Scoring	21.0	11	5
Interceptions	18	T8	T6
Sacks	47.0	4	2
Turnover Differential	+7	10	7

agent Frank Zombo (Kansas City) both departed. Fill-in starter D.J. Smith was jettisoned, too. Inside, there are plenty of players, but it's debatable how many of them are good. A healthy Desmond Bishop certainly would qualify. Outside, Matthews, 2012 first-round pick Nick Perry and under-the-radar second-year man Dezman Moses all generate pressure, but in a scheme predicated on outstanding play from that position, it seems thin.

In the secondary, gone is future Hall of Famer Charles Woodson, released in a cost-cutting move. Cornerback Tramon Williams, considered in 2010 to be one of the top-five cover men in the league, still isn't the player he was before suffering nerve damage in his shoulder in 2011. Cornerbacks coach Joe Whitt expects a four-way competition for the two starting jobs involving Williams, Sam Shields, Casey Hayward and Davon House.

RANDALL COBB, WR

SPECIALISTS Longtime kicker Mason Crosby got a case of the yips that may or may not be resolved. A year after going 24-of-28, he was a league-worst 21-of-33 (63.6 percent) on field goal attempts. In a close game, can he deliver? Meanwhile, Tim Masthay has quietly become one of the top punters in the NFL, but the return game is an issue, too. Given that Cobb emerged as the Packers' top pass-catcher, has he become too valuable on offense to continue as the full-time return man? It's a question McCarthy continues to wrestle with.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Packers certainly "lost" the offseason, as NFC contenders San Francisco and Seattle did more to improve their teams on paper. But this is how the Thompson and McCarthy regime works. They'll count on their own guys to either emerge out of nowhere or improve by leaps and bounds and count on their star veterans to keep delivering at the highest level. It's not the sexiest approach, but the Packers are 53–27 in the regular season since Rodgers took over at quarterback, with a Super Bowl XLV title to show for it. As disappointing as back-to-back NFC Divisional Playoff losses have been, the Packers remain solid contenders in a stacked conference.

NFL DRAFT 2013 PACKERS IN THE DRAFT

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Datone Jones	DE	6-4	283	UCLA
2.	Eddie Lacy	RB	5-11	231	Alabama
4.	David Bakhtiari	T	6-4	299	Colorado
4.	J.C. Tretter	T	6-4	307	Cornell
4.	Johnathan Franklin	RB	5-10	205	UCLA
5.	Micah Hyde	DB	6-0	197	Iowa
5.	Josh Boyd	DT	6-3	310	Mississippi State
6.	Nate Palmer	LB	6-2	240	Illinois State
7.	Charles Johnson	WR	6-2	209	Grand Valley St.
7.	Kevin Dorsey	WR	6-3	211	Maryland
7.	Sam Barrington	LB	6-1	246	South Florida

General manager Ted Thompson began the draft with eight selections but wound up making 11 picks after trading back three times and trading up once (for Johnathan Franklin). One trade he did not make was at the top, when he fielded calls for the 26th pick but held firm so he could take Datone Jones, who walks in as a presumptive contributor in the D-line rotation, at least in nickel and dime situations. Eddie Lacy and Franklin could awaken the long-dormant run game, and David Bakhtiari and J.C. Tretter add depth and competition to the offensive line. Josh Boyd and Nate Palmer could contribute sooner than later.

Cobb: Brian Ebner; Jones: Peter Brouillet

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
9 Coleman, B.J.	QB	6-3	231	1	Chattanooga	D7b-12	D7b-GB-12
6 Harrell, Graham	QB	6-2	215	1	Texas Tech	FA-10	FA-GB-10
12 Rodgers, Aaron	QB	6-2	225	8	California	D1-05	D1-GB-05
RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
20 Green, Alex	RB	6-0	225	2	Hawaii	D3-11	D3-GB-11
26 Harris, DuJuan	RB	5-8	203	1	Troy	FA-12	FA-Jac-11
30 Kuhn, John	FB	6-0	250	7	Shippensburg	W-Pit-07	FA-Pit-05
44 Starks, James	RB	6-2	218	3	Buffalo	D6-10	D6-GB-10
RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
48 Bostick, Brandon	TE	6-3	245	1	Newberry	FA-12	FA-GB-12
11 Boykin, Jarrett	WR	6-2	218	1	Virginia Tech	FA-12	FA-Jac-12
18 Cobb, Randall	WR	5-10	192	2	Kentucky	D2-11	D2-GB-11
13 Cunningham, Sederrik	WR	5-11	192	1	Furman	FA-13	FA-GB-13
88 Finley, Jermichael	TE	6-5	247	5	Texas	D3-08	D3-GB-08
89 Jones, James	WR	6-1	208	6	San Jose State	D3a-07	D3a-GB-07
85 Mulligan, Matthew	TE	6-4	265	4	Maine	FA-StL-13	FA-Mia-08
87 Nelson, Jordy	WR	6-3	217	5	Kansas State	D2a-08	D2a-GB-08
81 Quarless, Andrew	TE	6-4	252	3	Penn State	D5a-10	D5a-GB-10
10 Ross, Jeremy	WR	6-0	215	1	California	FA-12	FA-NE-11
82 Taylor, Ryan	FB/TE	6-3	254	2	North Carolina	D7a-11	D7a-GB-11
84 Williams, D.J.	TE	6-2	245	2	Arkansas	D5-11	D5-GB-11
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
67 Barclay, Don	T/G	6-4	305	1	West Virginia	FA-12	FA-GB-12
75 Bulaga, Bryan	T	6-5	314	3	Iowa	D1-10	D1-GB-10
77 Datko, Andrew	T	6-6	315	1	Florida State	D7a-12	D7a-GB-12
62 Dietrich-Smith, Evan	C/G	6-2	308	3	Idaho State	FA-10	FA-GB-09
72 Gerhart, Garth	C	6-1	310	1	Arizona State	FA-13	FA-Cle-12
70 Lang, T.J.	G/T	6-4	318	4	Eastern Michigan	D4-09	D4-GB-09
74 Newhouse, Marshall	T	6-4	319	3	TCU	D5b-10	D5b-GB-10
63 Saturday, Jeff	C	6-2	295	14	North Carolina	FA-Ind-12	FA-Bal-98
78 Sherrod, Derek	T	6-6	321	2	Mississippi State	D1-11	D1-GB-11
71 Sitton, Josh	G	6-3	318	5	UCF	D4b-08	D4b-GB-08
64 Van Roten, Greg	G	6-3	303	1	Pennsylvania	FA-12	FA-GB-12
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
76 Daniels, Mike	DE	6-0	294	1	Iowa	D4a-12	D4a-GB-12
91 Miller, Jordan	DT	6-1	309	1	Southern	FA-12	FA-Chi-11
96 Neal, Mike	DE	6-3	294	3	Purdue	D2-10	D2-GB-10
79 Pickett, Ryan	DT	6-2	338	12	Ohio State	FA-StL-06	D1-StL-01
90 Raji, B.J.	DT	6-2	337	4	Boston College	D1a-09	D1a-GB-09
98 Wilson, C.J.	DT	6-3	300	3	East Carolina	D7-10	D7-GB-10
99 Worthy, Jerel	DE	6-2	304	1	Michigan State	D2a-12	D2a-GB-12
LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
55 Bishop, Desmond	LB	6-2	238	6	California	D6b-07	D6b-GB-07
49 Francois, Robert	LB	6-2	250	3	Boston College	FA-09	FA-Min-09
50 Hawk, A.J.	LB	6-1	242	7	Ohio State	D1-06	D1-GB-06
94 Johnson, Micah	LB	6-2	265	1	Kentucky	FA-12	FA-NYG-10
59 Jones, Brad	LB	6-3	242	4	Colorado	D7-09	D7-GB-09
57 Lattimore, Jamari	LB	6-2	237	2	Middle Tennessee	FA-11	FA-GB-11
56 Manning, Terrell	LB	6-2	237	1	NC State	D5-12	D5-GB-12
52 Matthews, Clay	LB	6-3	255	4	USC	D1b-09	D1b-GB-09
54 Moses, Dezman	LB	6-2	249	1	Tulane	FA-12	FA-GB-12
53 Perry, Nick	LB	6-3	265	1	USC	D1-12	D1-GB-12
DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
42 Burnett, Morgan	S	6-1	209	3	Georgia Tech	D3-10	D3-GB-10
24 Bush, Jarrett	CB	6-0	200	7	Utah State	W-Car-06	FA-Car-06
29 Hayward, Casey	CB	5-11	192	1	Vanderbilt	D2b-12	D2b-GB-12
31 House, Davon	CB	6-1	195	2	New Mexico State	D4-11	D4-GB-11
43 Jennings, M.D.	S	6-0	195	2	Arkansas State	FA-11	FA-GB-11
22 McMillian, Jerron	S	5-11	203	1	Maine	D4b-12	D4b-GB-12
35 Means, Loyce	CB	5-10	188	1	Houston	FA-13	FA-Buf-11
23 Nixon, James	CB	6-0	180	1	California (PA)	FA-12	FA-Ari-12
41 Powell, Chaz	S	6-0	203	1	Penn State	FA-12	FA-Oak-12
28 Richardson, Sean	S	6-2	216	1	Vanderbilt	FA-12	FA-GB-12
37 Shields, Sam	CB	5-11	184	3	Miami	FA-10	FA-GB-10
38 Williams, Tramon	CB	5-11	191	6	Louisiana Tech	FA-06	FA-Hou-06
SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
2 Crosby, Mason	K	6-1	207	6	Colorado	D6c-07	D6c-GB-07
61 Goode, Brett	LS	6-1	255	5	Arkansas	FA-08	FA-Jac-08
8 Masthay, Tim	P	6-1	200	3	Kentucky	FA-10	FA-Ind-09
7 Tavecchio, Giorgio	K	5-10	182	1	California	FA-13	FA-SF-12

Tom DiPace

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	87	Jordy Nelson
	89	James Jones
WR	18	Randall Cobb
	11	Jarrett Boykin
LT	74	Marshall Newhouse
	78	Derek Sherrod
LG	70	T.J. Lang
	69	David Bakhtiari (R)
C	62	Evan Dietrich-Smith
	73	J.C. Tretter (R)
RG	71	Josh Sitton
	64	Greg Van Roten
RT	75	Bryan Bulaga
	67	Don Barclay
TE	88	Jermichael Finley
	81	Andrew Quarless
QB	12	Aaron Rodgers
	6	Graham Harrell
FB	30	John Kuhn
	82	Ryan Taylor
RB	27	Eddie Lacy (R)
	26	DuJuan Harris

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DT	79	Ryan Pickett
	98	C.J. Wilson
NT	90	B.J. Raji
	93	Josh Boyd (R)
DE	96	Mike Neal
	95	Datone Jones (R)
OLB	52	Clay Matthews
	54	Dezman Moses
ILB	50	A.J. Hawk
	56	Terrell Manning
ILB	55	Desmond Bishop
	59	Brad Jones
OLB	53	Nick Perry
	51	Nate Palmer (R)
CB	37	Sam Shields
	29	Casey Hayward
CB	38	Tramon Williams
	31	Davon House
SS	42	Morgan Burnett
	43	M.D. Jennings
FS	22	Jerron McMillian
	24	Jarrett Bush

SPECIALISTS

K	2	Mason Crosby
P	8	Tim Masthay

KR	18	Randall Cobb
PR	18	Randall Cobb

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
Johnathan Franklin, RB

DEEP-SLEEPER
D.J. Williams, TE

OVERVALUED
Jermichael Finley, TE

TOP ROOKIE
Eddie Lacy, RB

BOUNCE-BACK
Desmond Bishop, LB

TOP IDP
Clay Matthews, LB

For more Fantasy, visit **AthlonSports.com/fantasy** or follow **@AthlonSports** on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 8	at San Francisco	4:25	11-4-1	361.8 (11)	294.4 (3)	24.8 (11)	17.1 (2)
2	Sept. 15	Washington	1:00	10-6	383.2 (5)	377.7 (28)	27.2 (4)	24.2 (22)
3	Sept. 22	at Cincinnati	1:00	10-6	332.7 (22)	319.7 (6)	24.4 (12)	20.0 (8)
4		BYE						
5	Oct. 6	Detroit	1:00	4-12	408.8 (3)	341.1 (13)	23.2 (17)	27.3 (27)
6	Oct. 13	at Baltimore	1:00	10-6	352.5 (16)	350.9 (17)	24.9 (10)	21.5 (12)
7	Oct. 20	Cleveland	4:25	5-11	314.2 (25)	363.8 (23)	18.9 (24)	23.0 (19)
8	Oct. 27	at Minnesota	8:30	10-6	336.6 (20)	350.0 (16)	23.7 (14)	21.8 (14)
9	Nov. 4	Chicago (Mon.)	8:40	10-6	310.6 (28)	315.6 (5)	23.4 (16)	17.3 (3)
10	Nov. 10	Philadelphia	1:00	4-12	354.1 (15)	343.2 (15)	17.5 (29)	27.8 (29)
11	Nov. 17	at N.Y. Giants	8:30	9-7	355.4 (14)	383.4 (31)	26.8 (6)	21.5 (12)
12	Nov. 24	Minnesota	1:00	10-6	336.6 (20)	350.0 (16)	23.7 (14)	21.8 (14)
13	Nov. 28	at Detroit (Thu.)	12:30	4-12	408.8 (3)	341.1 (13)	23.2 (17)	27.3 (27)
14	Dec. 8	Atlanta	8:30	13-3	369.1 (8)	365.6 (24)	26.2 (7)	18.7 (5)
15	Dec. 15	at Dallas	4:25	8-8	374.6 (6)	355.4 (19)	23.5 (15)	25.0 (24)
16	Dec. 22	Pittsburgh	4:25	8-8	332.7 (21)	275.8 (1)	21.0 (22)	19.6 (6)
17	Dec. 29	at Chicago	1:00	10-6	310.6 (28)	315.6 (5)	23.4 (16)	17.3 (3)

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

NFC NORTH FORECAST **2**

On New Year's Day 2012, the Vikings stumbled across the finish line of the most miserable season in franchise history. That day's home loss to Chicago completed a 3–13 collapse. And with the defeat coming only two days after Adrian Peterson underwent surgery on torn anterior cruciate and medial collateral ligaments in his left knee, nothing but misery surrounded the franchise.

The disorienting freefall left many wondering just how steep the climb back to relevance would be. Yet by this past New Year's Eve, the Vikings were headed back to the playoffs and Peterson was completing an astounding comeback season — of the MVP variety — rushing for 2,097 yards and carrying his team through a four-game winning streak to close the year. In abbreviated form, that summarizes the underdog conquest of the 2012 Vikings.

So now what? After all that, how will Peterson and the Vikings handle the heightened expectations brought on by their own brilliance?

See more cheerleaders by visiting AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER/CHAIRMAN: Zygi Wilf
GENERAL MANAGER: Rick Spielman
VICE PRESIDENT OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS: Rob Brzezinski
STADIUM: Hubert. H. Humphrey Metrodome (64,121)
SURFACE: Momentum Turf
WEBSITE: www.minnesotavikings.com
TICKETS: 612-338-4537
TRAINING CAMP: Minnesota State University (Mankato, Minn.)

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Leslie Frazier
RECORD WITH TEAM: 16-22
CAREER RECORD: 16-22
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Bill Musgrave
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Alan Williams

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

Playoffs

JARED ALLEN, DE

OFFENSE So long as Peterson is around, the game plan will be run first, run second, throw when necessary. But even with that predictability, opposing defenses have found little to slow the MVP. Look back at the second half of last season, with Percy Harvin lost to a season-ending ankle injury in the ninth game and Christian Ponder lapsing into a funk that saw him throw for just 443 yards with four turnovers in three November games. All Peterson did in his final eight games was average 165 rushing yards per contest and 6.7 yards per carry while scoring nine touchdowns.

He was physical. He was elusive. He was a one-man show in a one-dimensional offense.

But now comes a quest to find balance. And after trading Harvin to Seattle, the team quickly signed Greg Jennings before drafting Tennessee's Cordarrelle Patterson in the first round to help revive the passing attack. The anticipation is that Jennings' enthusiasm and professionalism will become a catalyst for both Ponder and Patterson. Ponder needs Jennings to be his new go-to receiver, a crisp route-runner with obvious intelligence whose presence alone should keep defenses from constantly stacking up against Peterson.

Patterson, meanwhile, will rely on Jennings to learn more about being a pro. After only one season of major college football, Patterson is widely considered raw. And even the Vikings aren't setting grand expectations for Year 1: They don't need Patterson to emulate his childhood hero, Randy Moss, whose jersey number (84) he'll wear. Patterson may do his most damage out of the gates as a returner but has the combination of size, speed and athleticism to be a game-breaker once he absorbs some of the nuances of the NFL game. And coordinator Bill Musgrave also understands the need to be imaginative in creating touches for the rookie.

All the playmakers should benefit from the offensive line stability, with the same quintet that started all 16 games in 2012 back together for another year. Left tackle Matt Kalil, who went to the Pro Bowl as a rookie, may be one of the league's best in pass protection and proved last season he's underrated as a run-blocker. Center John Sullivan, a 2008 sixth-round pick, continues to improve and is the leader of a unit that may be as smart as it is nasty.

As for Ponder? The Vikings have delivered the same directive he had in 2012, asking him to avoid drive-killing sacks and game-changing interceptions without growing overly conservative. Ponder's late-season rebound provided positive reinforcement. With a playoff berth on the line in Week 17, Ponder beat Aaron Rodgers and Green Bay, 37–34, throwing three TDs with a career-best 120.2 rating.

DEFENSE In his first year as a coordinator, Alan Williams mixed up the defensive calls and improved the 4-3 attack. But the unit still finished in the middle of the pack in total defense (16th, 350.0 ypg) and points allowed (tied for 14th, 21.8 ppg). And there are big holes to plug with the exits of cornerback Antoine Winfield and middle linebacker Jasper Brinkley.

Heading for training camp, the Vikings were still searching to identify a top candidate at middle linebacker, dabbling with the idea of moving Erin Henderson inside after he started the past two seasons at weak-side linebacker. But despite Henderson's athleticism and tenacity, there are worries about his habit of wandering out of place with a thirst for making the big play. Strong-side linebacker Chad Greenway might be the most consistent player on defense, a tackling machine who always does what's asked.

But the Vikings' edge still starts up front where their line is both accomplished and aging. Three standout veterans — Jared Allen, 31; Kevin Williams, 33; and Brian Robison, 30 — all

Peterson, Allen: AP Photo/Greg Trott; Cheer: Tom Dahlin/Getty Images

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Gotta run GM Rick Spielman was ecstatic to have two first-round choices in April, picks he used on Sharrif Floyd (23rd overall) and Xavier Rhodes (25th). But while expressing his glee over those picks at a press conference late on the draft's first night, Spielman was summoned back to the war room to rubber-stamp a trade. He literally sprinted from the podium, then agreed to send New England four picks in order to draft receiver Cordarrelle Patterson at No. 29. "That's what makes this job very exciting," Spielman said. "Especially when I almost pulled a hamstring getting back upstairs."

Heads up The new NFL rule to penalize ball-carriers for initiating contact with the crown of their helmet has coach Leslie Frazier on edge, wondering whether Adrian Peterson's punishing style will be diminished. Said Frazier: "I just know being around great running backs, whether it be Walter (Payton) or Adrian, they're so instinctual in what they do. They're not thinking a lot of times about when they're going to use a stiff arm, how they're going to use it. To start thinking now, 'Oh, man, I've got to lower my shoulder or I've got to turn this way?' I don't know."

Across the pond With only one true home game in September, the Vikings must be focused away from the Twin Cities early. Season-opening trips to Detroit and Chicago will be tone-setters. Most intriguing, however, will be a Week 4 "home" game against the Steelers in London. To generate buzz for that Wembley Stadium showdown, John Sullivan, Harrison Smith and Kyle Rudolph spent a week this spring traveling through England and Ireland, finding fans at promotional stops and in pubs more educated than they'd realized. Said Sullivan: "They knew everything. They were asking us about rules changes, about potential offseason scheduling changes. All of it."

The new look The Vikings unveiled newly designed Nike uniforms in April. They include new matte helmets with a slightly revised horn, snazzy new-age numerals and the option of dark purple pants on the road. Said Chad Greenway: "I think it's a good meld between the throwback and the modern uniform. … The simpler uniform kind of reminds me that we're going back to the days of the '70s and '80s of the more original Viking uniforms."

Closing the doors If the Vikings are unable to secure a home playoff game, their 31-season stay at the Metrodome will end Dec. 29 against the Lions. The Vikings are expected to play the 2014 and 2015 seasons at TCF Bank Stadium on the campus of the University of Minnesota before moving into a new billion-dollar downtown dome in 2016.

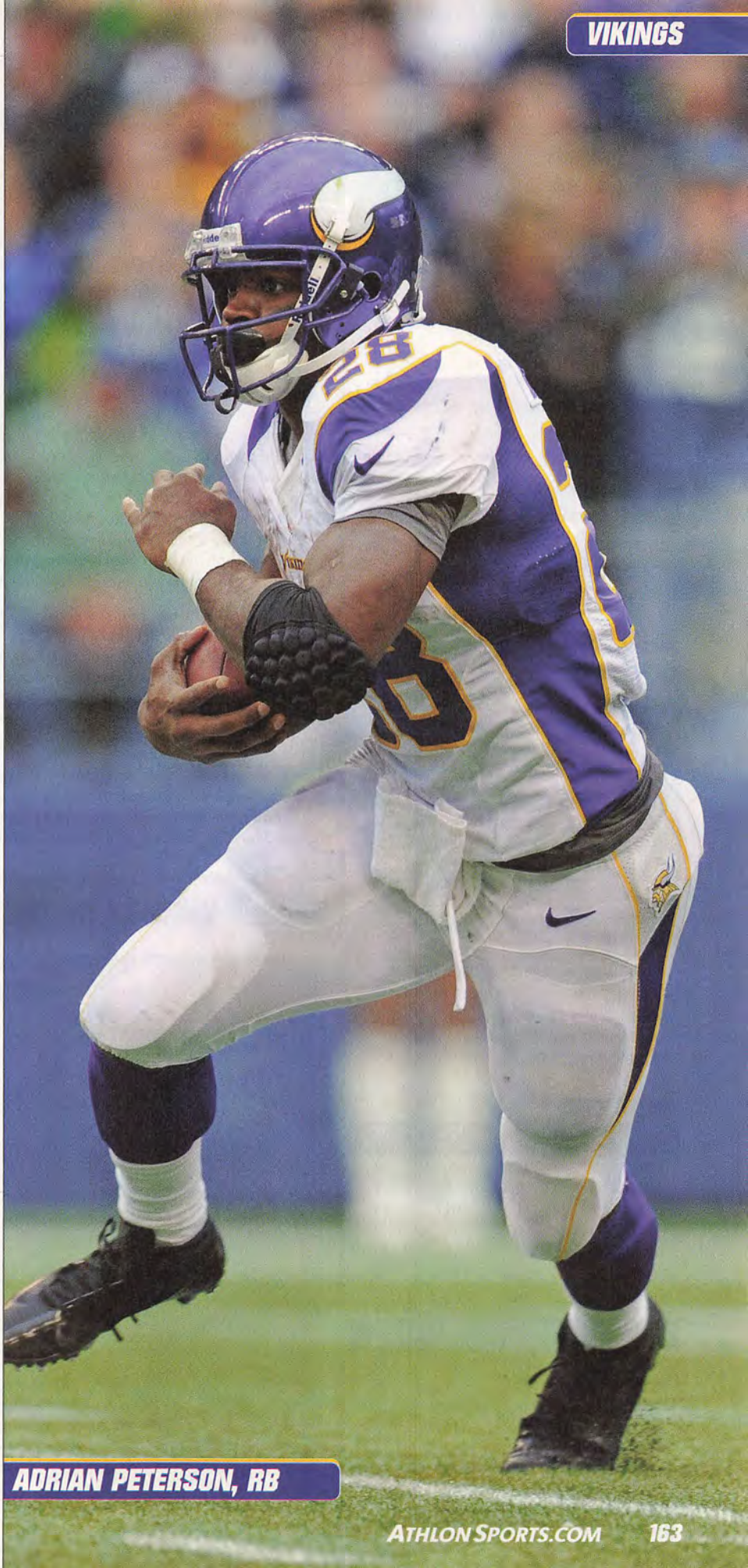
PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
QB	Matt Cassel	Kansas City
WR	Greg Jennings	Green Bay
CB	Jacob Lacey	Detroit
DE	Lawrence Jackson	Detroit

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
LB	Jasper Brinkley	Arizona
WR	Percy Harvin	Seattle
P	Chris Kluwe	Free Agent
T	Geoff Schwartz	Kansas City
CB	Antoine Winfield	Seattle



ADRIAN PETERSON, RB

2012 RESULTS (10–6)

Sept. 9	Jacksonville (ot)	W	26–23
Sept. 16	at Indianapolis	L	20–23
Sept. 23	San Francisco	W	24–13
Sept. 30	at Detroit	W	20–13
Oct. 7	Tennessee	W	30–7
Oct. 14	at Washington	L	26–38
Oct. 21	Arizona	W	21–14
Oct. 25	Tampa Bay	L	17–36
Nov. 4	at Seattle	L	20–30
Nov. 11	Detroit	W	34–24
Nov. 25	at Chicago	L	10–28
Dec. 2	at Green Bay	L	14–23
Dec. 9	Chicago	W	21–14
Dec. 16	at St. Louis	W	36–22
Dec. 23	at Houston	W	23–6
Dec. 30	Green Bay	W	37–34
Postseason			
Jan. 5	at Green Bay	L	10–24

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Christian Ponder	483	300	2,935	18	12

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Adrian Peterson	348	2,097	6.0	12
Christian Ponder	60	253	4.2	2
Toby Gerhart	50	169	3.4	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Percy Harvin	62	677	10.9	3
Kyle Rudolph	53	493	9.3	9
Michael Jenkins	40	449	11.2	2
Adrian Peterson	40	217	5.4	1
Jerome Simpson	26	274	10.5	0

KICKING: Blair Walsh, 35-38 FGs, 36-36 XPs, 141 points
TACKLES: Chad Greenway, 148; Harrison Smith, 104
SACKS: Jared Allen, 12; Brian Robison, 8.5
INTERCEPTIONS: Harrison Smith, 3; Antoine Winfield, 3
FORCED FUMBLES: Jamarca Sanford, 4

2012 STATS

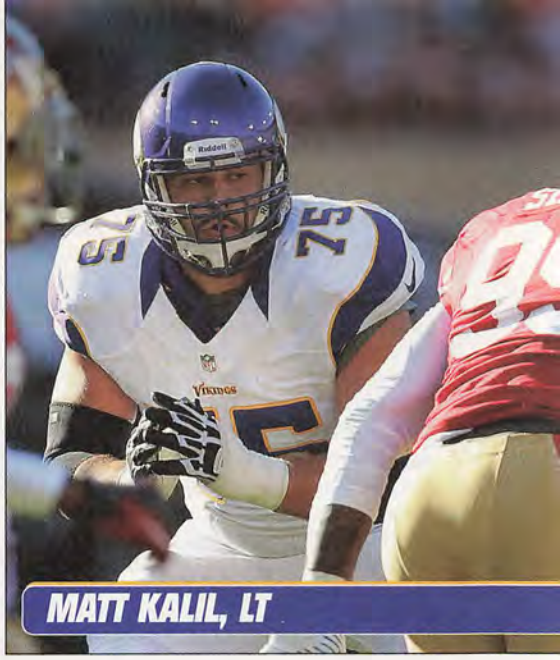
TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	336.6	20	13
Rushing	164.6	2	2
Passing	171.9	31	16
Scoring	23.7	14	9
Third Down %	37.1	19	10
Punt Returns	9.0	T19	T7
Kick Returns	26.6	5	2

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	350.0	16	10
Rushing	105.8	11	6
Passing	244.2	24	12
Scoring	21.8	T14	T7
Interceptions	10	T27	14
Sacks	44.0	T5	3
Turnover Differential	-1	T17	T11

are heading into contract years. And it would not be a surprise if this were the last hurrah for both Allen and Williams as Vikings. Allen battled a torn labrum in his shoulder last fall and saw his sack production fall dramatically, from 22 in 2011 to 12 last season. But the internal belief is that he is still a pass-rushing force who commands plenty of attention.

Everson Griffen is an emerging force whose athleticism and versatility were evident in his eight sacks plus a 29-yard interception return touchdown. And there is excitement about the athleticism and burst that rookie tackle Sharrif Floyd will bring.

The secondary remains young but eager with second-year safety Harrison Smith emerging as an always-in-the-right-place playmaker who uses his instincts to excel in pass coverage while also bringing a hard-hitting edge. Pairing rookie Xavier Rhodes opposite Chris Cook at cornerback should give the Vikings a chance to play man-to-man more regularly. Both players are big, physical and quick, prerequisites in a division with Detroit's Calvin Johnson, Chicago's Brandon Marshall and all those playmakers in Green Bay.


MATT KALIL, LT

SPECIALISTS The new punter will be Jeff Locke, a left-footer out of UCLA who was drafted in the fifth round. The decision to use a Day 3 draft pick on a punter might have been more head-scratching had the Vikings not hit the jackpot a year earlier by selecting kicker Blair Walsh in Round 6. As a rookie, Walsh responded with one of the best seasons by a placekicker in NFL history — 35-of-38 on field goals, 10-of-10 from 50 yards and beyond, 53 touchbacks on 86 kickoffs. Walsh's leg strength and poise were evident throughout, and his inclusion in the Pro Bowl and on the All-Pro team were well-deserved.

FINAL ANALYSIS The team seems to be on an upward arc. But in an ultra-tough division, a return to the playoffs will require the Vikings to navigate a much tougher schedule while finding contributors to plug holes left by Harvin and Winfield. Peterson's bid to repeat as MVP will be key. More significant will be Ponder's ability to take the next step in his growth.

NFL DRAFT 2013 VIKINGS IN THE DRAFT

A

RD PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1. Sharrif Floyd	**DT**	**6-3**	**297**	**Florida**
1. Xavier Rhodes	CB	6-2	210	Florida State
1. Cordarrelle Patterson	WR	6-2	205	Tennessee
4. Gerald Hodges	LB	6-1	243	Penn State
5. Jeff Locke	P	6-1	209	UCLA
6. Jeff Baca	G	6-3	295	UCLA
7. Michael Mauti	LB	6-1	243	Penn State
7. Travis Bond	G	6-6	330	North Carolina
7. Everett Dawkins	DT	6-2	292	Florida State

The Vikings' 2013 draft will always be remembered for a 50-minute shopping spree at the end of Round 1 when they watched athletic defensive tackle Sharrif Floyd fall to them at No. 23, pounced on lockdown cornerback Xavier Rhodes two picks later, then made an aggressive push back into Round 1, trading four picks to New England for the right to scoop up receiver Cordarrelle Patterson at No. 29. The later rounds may have supplied depth at linebacker plus O-line reinforcement. But as the first team since the 2001 Rams to emerge with three first-rounders from the same draft, the Vikings will want Rhodes and Patterson to become immediate starters while asking Floyd to split time with 10-year vet Kevin Williams.

Kalil: AP Photo/Tom Hauck; Floyd: Chris Covatta

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
4 Bethel-Thompson, M.	QB	6-3	230	1	Sacramento State	FA-12	FA-SF-11
16 Cassel, Matt	QB	6-4	230	8	USC	FA-KC-13	D7-NE-05
7 Ponder, Christian	QB	6-2	229	2	Florida State	D1-11	D1-Min-11
14 Webb, Joe	QB	6-4	220	3	UAB	D6-10	D6-Min-10

RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
48 Asiata, Matt	RB	6-0	234	1	Utah	FA-11	FA-Min-11
23 Banyard, Joe	RB	5-10	205	1	UTEP	FA-12	FA-Jac-12
40 Ellison, Rhett	FB/TE	6-5	250	1	USC	D4b-12	D4b-Min-12
42 Felton, Jerome	FB	6-0	248	5	Furman	FA-Ind-12	D5-Det-08
32 Gerhart, Toby	RB	6-0	231	3	Stanford	D2b-10	D2b-Min-10
28 Peterson, Adrian	RB	6-1	217	6	Oklahoma	D1-07	D1-Min-07

RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
87 Brown, LaMark	TE	6-4	221	1	Minn. St.-Mankato	FA-12	FA-Atl-12
11 Burton, Stephen	WR	6-1	224	2	West Texas A&M	D7b-11	D7b-Min-11
89 Carlson, John	TE	6-5	248	4	Notre Dame	FA-Sea-12	D2-Sea-08
85 Childs, Greg	WR	6-3	217	1	Arkansas	D4c-12	D4c-Min-12
15 Jennings, Greg	WR	5-11	198	7	Western Michigan	FA-GB-13	D2b-GB-06
82 Rudolph, Kyle	TE	6-6	258	2	Notre Dame	D2-11	D2-Min-11
81 Simpson, Jerome	WR	6-2	189	5	Coastal Carolina	FA-Cin-12	D2-Cin-08
15 Summers, Chris	WR	6-5	215	1	Liberty	FA-12	FA-Chi-12
17 Wright, Jarius	WR	5-10	180	1	Arkansas	D4a-12	D4a-Min-12

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
61 Berger, Joe	C/G	6-5	305	7	Michigan Tech	FA-11	D6-Car-05
63 Fusco, Brandon	G	6-4	306	2	Slippery Rock	D6c-11	D6c-Min-11
66 Holmes, Tyler	G	6-4	312	1	Tulsa	FA-12	FA-Min-12
74 Johnson, Charlie	G	6-4	305	7	Oklahoma State	FA-Ind-11	D6-Ind-06
75 Kalil, Matt	T	6-7	308	1	USC	D1a-12	D1a-Min-12
78 Kropog, Troy	T	6-6	295	3	Tulane	FA-12	D4-Ten-09
71 Loadholt, Phil	T	6-8	343	4	Oklahoma	D2-09	D2-Min-09
73 Love, DeMarcus	T	6-4	315	1	Arkansas	D6a-11	D6a-Min-11
68 Murphy, Kevin	T	6-7	305	1	Harvard	W-SF-12	FA-SF-12
72 Olsen, Seth	G	6-5	305	3	Iowa	FA-Ind-13	D4-Den-09
65 Sullivan, John	C	6-4	301	5	Notre Dame	D6a-08	D6a-Min-08

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
69 Allen, Jared	DE	6-6	270	9	Idaho State	T-KC-08	D4-KC-04
62 Baker, Chase	DT	6-2	300	1	Boise State	FA-12	FA-Min-12
99 Ballard, Christian	DT	6-4	283	2	Iowa	D4-11	D4-Min-11
90 Evans, Fred	DT	6-4	305	6	Texas State	FA-07	D7-Mia-06
97 Griffen, Everson	DE	6-3	273	3	USC	D4-10	D4-Min-10
98 Guion, Letroy	DT	6-4	303	5	Florida State	D5b-08	D5b-Min-08
94 Jackson, Lawrence	DE	6-4	271	5	USC	FA-Det-13	D1-Sea-08
92 Johnson, George	DE	6-4	270	3	Rutgers	FA-12	FA-TB-10
91 Reed, D'Aundre	DE	6-4	260	1	Arizona	D7a-11	D7a-Min-11
96 Robison, Brian	DE	6-3	259	6	Texas	D4-07	D4-Min-07
93 Williams, Kevin	DT	6-5	311	10	Oklahoma State	D1-03	D1-Min-03

LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
57 Cole, Audie	LB	6-5	239	1	NC State	D7a-12	D7a-Min-12
51 Dean, Larry	LB	6-0	226	2	Valdosta State	FA-11	FA-Min-11
52 Greenway, Chad	LB	6-2	242	6	Iowa	D1-06	D1-Min-06
50 Henderson, Erin	LB	6-3	244	4	Maryland	FA-08	FA-Min-08
58 McKenzie, Tyrone	LB	6-2	245	2	South Florida	FA-11	D3-NE-09
55 Mitchell, Marvin	LB	6-3	246	6	Tennessee	FA-Mia-12	D7-NO-07

DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
36 Blanton, Robert	S	6-1	200	1	Notre Dame	D5-12	D5-Min-12
27 Burton, Brandon	CB	5-11	190	2	Utah	D5a-11	D5a-Min-11
20 Cook, Chris	CB	6-2	212	3	Virginia	D2a-10	D2a-Min-10
31 Felder, Bobby	CB	5-11	200	1	Nicholls State	FA-12	FA-Min-12
24 Jefferson, A.J.	CB	6-1	190	3	Fresno State	T-Ari-12	FA-Ari-10
26 Lacey, Jacob	CB	5-10	177	4	Oklahoma State	FA-Det-13	FA-Ind-09
30 McCoy, Greg	CB	5-10	178	1	TCU	FA-13	D7-Chi-12
41 Raymond, Mistral	S	6-1	202	2	South Florida	D6b-11	D6b-Min-11
21 Robinson, Josh	CB	5-10	199	1	UCF	D3-12	D3-Min-12
33 Sanford, Jamarca	S	5-10	200	4	Ole Miss	D7-09	D7-Min-09
34 Sendejo, Andrew	S	6-1	200	2	Rice	FA-11	FA-Dal-10
35 Sherels, Marcus	CB	5-10	175	2	Minnesota	FA-10	FA-Min-10
22 Smith, Harrison	S	6-2	214	1	Notre Dame	D1b-12	D1b-Min-12
39 Taylor, Nick	CB	5-9	175	1	FIU	FA-12	FA-Min-12

SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
46 Loeffler, Cullen	LS	6-5	241	9	Texas	FA-04	FA-Min-04
3 Walsh, Blair	K	5-10	192	1	Georgia	D6-12	D6-Min-12

AP Photo/Scott Boehm

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	15	Greg Jennings
	17	Jarius Wright
WR	84	Cordarrelle Patterson (R)
	81	Jerome Simpson
LT	75	Matt Kalil
	78	Troy Kropog
LG	74	Charlie Johnson
	61	Joe Berger
C	65	John Sullivan
	61	Joe Berger
RG	63	Brandon Fusco
	60	Jeff Baca (R)
RT	71	Phil Loadholt
	76	Travis Bond (R)
TE	82	Kyle Rudolph
	40	Rhett Ellison
QB	7	Christian Ponder
	16	Matt Cassel
FB	42	Jerome Felton
	40	Rhett Ellison
RB	28	Adrian Peterson
	32	Toby Gerhart

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	69	Jared Allen
	94	Lawrence Jackson
DT	93	Kevin Williams
	95	Sharrif Floyd (R)
DT	98	Letroy Guion
	90	Fred Evans
DE	96	Brian Robison
	97	Everson Griffen
SLB	52	Chad Greenway
	55	Marvin Mitchell
MLB	50	Erin Henderson
	56	Michael Mauti (R)
WLB	57	Audie Cole
	54	Gerald Hodges (R)
CB	20	Chris Cook
	24	A.J. Jefferson
CB	29	Xavier Rhodes (R)
	21	Josh Robinson
S	22	Harrison Smith
	36	Robert Blanton
S	33	Jamarca Sanford
	41	Mistral Raymond

SPECIALISTS

K	3	Blair Walsh
P	12	Jeff Locke (R)
KR	84	Cordarrelle Patterson (R)
PR	84	Cordarrelle Patterson (R)

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
Erin Henderson, LB

DEEP-SLEEPER
Jarius Wright, WR

OVERVALUED
Greg Jennings, WR

TOP ROOKIE
Cordarrelle Patterson, WR

BOUNCE-BACK
Jared Allen, DE

TOP IDP
Chad Greenway, LB

For more Fantasy, visit **AthlonSports.com/fantasy** or follow **@AthlonSports** on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 8	at Detroit	1:00	4-12	408.8 (3)	341.1 (13)	23.2 (17)	27.3 (27)
2	Sept. 15	at Chicago	1:00	10-6	310.6 (28)	315.6 (5)	23.4 (16)	17.3 (3)
3	Sept. 22	Cleveland	1:00	5-11	314.2 (25)	363.8 (23)	18.9 (24)	23.0 (19)
4	Sept. 29	Pittsburgh (London)	1:00	8-8	332.7 (21)	275.8 (1)	21.0 (22)	19.6 (6)
5		BYE						
6	Oct. 13	Carolina	1:00	7-9	360.7 (12)	333.1 (10)	22.3 (18)	22.7 (18)
7	Oct. 21	at N.Y. Giants (Mon.)	8:40	9-7	355.4 (14)	383.4 (31)	26.8 (6)	21.5 (12)
8	Oct. 27	Green Bay	8:30	11-5	359.4 (13)	336.8 (11)	27.1 (5)	21.0 (11)
9	Nov. 3	at Dallas	1:00	8-8	374.6 (6)	355.4 (19)	23.5 (15)	25.0 (24)
10	Nov. 7	Washington (Thu.)	8:25	10-6	383.2 (5)	377.7 (28)	27.2 (4)	24.2 (22)
11	Nov. 17	at Seattle	4:25	11-5	350.6 (17)	306.2 (4)	25.8 (9)	15.3 (1)
12	Nov. 24	at Green Bay	1:00	11-5	359.4 (13)	336.8 (11)	27.1 (5)	21.0 (11)
13	Dec. 1	Chicago	1:00	10-6	310.6 (28)	315.6 (5)	23.4 (16)	17.3 (3)
14	Dec. 8	at Baltimore	1:00	10-6	352.5 (16)	350.9 (17)	24.9 (10)	21.5 (12)
15	Dec. 15	Philadelphia	1:00	4-12	354.1 (15)	343.2 (15)	17.5 (29)	27.8 (29)
16	Dec. 22	at Cincinnati	1:00	10-6	332.7 (22)	319.7 (6)	24.4 (12)	20.0 (8)
17	Dec. 29	Detroit	1:00	4-12	408.8 (3)	341.1 (13)	23.2 (17)	27.3 (27)

ATLANTA FALCONS

NFC SOUTH FORECAST **1**

See more cheerleaders by visiting AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER: Arthur Blank
PRESIDENT/CEO: Rich McKay
GENERAL MANAGER: Thomas Dimitroff
STADIUM: Georgia Dome (71,228)
SURFACE: Field Turf
WEBSITE: www.atlantafalcons.com
TICKETS: 404-223-8444
TRAINING CAMP: Atlanta Falcons Training Facility (Flowery Branch, Ga.)

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Mike Smith
RECORD WITH TEAM: 56-24
CAREER RECORD: 56-24
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Dirk Koetter
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Mike Nolan

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2008	11
2009	9
2010	13
2011	10
2012	13

Playoffs

JULIO JONES, WR

Say this about the Atlanta Falcons: They don't rest on their laurels. Coming up just 10 yards short of the Super Bowl and winning an NFC-best 13 games apparently wasn't good enough for GM Thomas Dimitroff and head coach Mike Smith. They overhauled the roster despite recording the No. 1 overall playoff seed for only the second time in franchise history. Eight new starters will line up for the Falcons this season, including prize free-agent additions Osi Umenyiora and Steven Jackson.

The Falcons enter the season as one of the favorites to represent the NFC in Super Bowl XLVIII in New York. After steadily fortifying the roster in recent years, they appear ready to take the next step in the hyper-competitive NFC. "I think this team really believes now this team truly can strap it up against any team in this league," Dimitroff says. "There is not the intimidation factor that there once was. And I love that feeling."

OFFENSE The Falcons feature a premier quarterback in Matt Ryan and boast an arsenal of playmakers as deep and talented as any in the NFL. Wide receivers Roddy White and Julio Jones are big, physical playmakers on the perimeter who can score from any down-and-distance scenario. Both are good enough to be No. 1 receivers on most NFL teams. Mercurial Harry Douglas is established as the third receiver, but the team believes he has big-play potential that hasn't been fully utilized in the past. The big-play opportunities should be there for him with defenses concentrating on White and Jones. He needs to capitalize on them.

Tight end Tony Gonzalez is Ryan's favorite target, especially in the red zone and on third down. He was targeted 124 times and produced 93 receptions and eight TDs last season. He keeps himself in great shape, so another big year is possible for the perennial Pro Bowler.

Jackson has a lot of wear on his tires but remains remarkably productive. The classic workhorse back, he will try to notch his ninth consecutive 1,000-yard rushing season. That the NFL record is 11 by Emmitt Smith says a lot about Jackson's dependability and durability. He's the perfect complement to the Falcons' high-powered passing attack and will be a significant upgrade over Michael Turner, who had clearly lost explosiveness last season. Scat back Jacquizz Rodgers is the check-down option. He needs more touches, and like Douglas, could have a breakout year with defenses focused outside the hash marks on White and Jones.

Ryan set career highs in passing yards (4,719), completion percentage (68.6) and TD passes (32) last season. He's the consummate field general who can make every throw. He's become a more vocal leader in recent years and has earned the trust and respect of his teammates.

The Falcons' failure to score from the 1-yard line on three downs in their heartbreaking loss to the Saints was the impetus to overhaul the offensive line, which will feature three new starters. The goal is to get more physical and athletic up front. Tackle Lamar Holmes and guard Garrett Reynolds form the new right side. Both are bigger and more physical than their predecessors. Peter Konz replaces longtime veteran Todd McClure at center and is much stronger and more powerful at this stage of his career. Left tackle Sam Baker enjoyed a strong rebound season in 2012. He's not spectacular at anything but does everything well.

DEFENSE Coordinator Mike Nolan plays multiple schemes but prefers to operate out of a 4-3 base. The Falcons are unfailingly consistent on defense. They annually rank among the league leaders in interceptions and near the bottom in sacks. Rushing the passer continues to be their most pressing concern. To that end, the Falcons replaced the aging John Abraham with Umenyiora, who is three years younger. Umenyiora's production has declined precipitously the past two years. The Falcons are hoping a change of scenery and the Georgia Dome fast track will turn things around for him. Kroy Biermann makes plays with his hustle and nonstop motor, but he can be overpowered at the point of attack and is a liability against the run. The underrated Jonathan Babineaux is the Falcons' best lineman. He's undersized but is one of the league's best interior penetrators.

Linebacker Sean Weatherspoon is the leader of this defense. He's an elite athlete who makes plays all over the field from his weak-side spot. Akeem Dent and Stephen Nicholas are solid if unspectacular in the middle and strong side, respectively. Depth is a big concern.

The Falcons wanted to upgrade their play at cornerback despite allowing an NFL-low five touchdowns on passes outside the painted numbers last season. Asante Samuel is a boom-or-bust proposition at left corner. He intercepted five passes but also can be burned for big plays

Ryan: Peter Brouillet; Jones: AP Photo/Perry Knotts; Cheer AP Images

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

The joy of six There's a very good chance that Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan will make history in 2013. Ryan has 56 wins in his first five seasons. The record for most wins by a starting quarterback in his first six seasons is 60 by Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlisberger. For reference, Peyton Manning won 54 games in his first six seasons.

Coming home Defensive end Osi Umenyiora, who won two Super Bowl rings with the Giants, has lived in Atlanta during the offseason for the past 10 years and has called Atlanta home for 14 years. Umenyiora said signing with the Falcons in free agency was the perfect situation, adding that he didn't even want to visit other teams during his free agency tour. One of the things he's looking forward to most is going to pick up his son from school.

Long road to redemption Next to Umenyiora, Brian Banks might have been the biggest name the Falcons signed during the offseason. Banks was a nationally ranked prep standout in California. Wrongfully accused and convicted of rape and kidnapping, he spent five years in prison before being exonerated last year. He was sidelined from football for 10 years. Now he'll compete for a backup linebacker spot. "This is just the beginning of a long road to taking that next step and making the 53-man roster," Banks says. "(Coach Smith and I) both agreed that I don't expect any handouts or favoritism. I'm here to work like everybody else." Banks ran the defense from his middle linebacker spot at the rookie mini-camp in May. "It was real good today to get out there," Banks said following the first day. "I've been in film the last two weeks, so to get a chance to get out there and put all the knowledge that we've been putting on paper out onto the field was a really good experience for the first time. It was really fast-paced. I made a lot of really good moves, made a lot of mistakes, so adjustments will be made."

I'm your captain Desmond Trufant and Robert Alford are two of 19 players drafted by general manager Thomas Dimitroff since 2008 who were team captains in college. The list includes starters Matt Ryan, Akeem Dent, Thomas DeCoud and Sean Weatherspoon. Trufant and Alford also were seniors. Of the 46 players Dimitroff has drafted, 39 were seniors.

Wheeler dealer Dimitroff has earned the nickname "Trader Thomas" thanks to his penchant for making draft-day deals. Dimitroff has made at least one trade in every draft since he came on board in 2008.

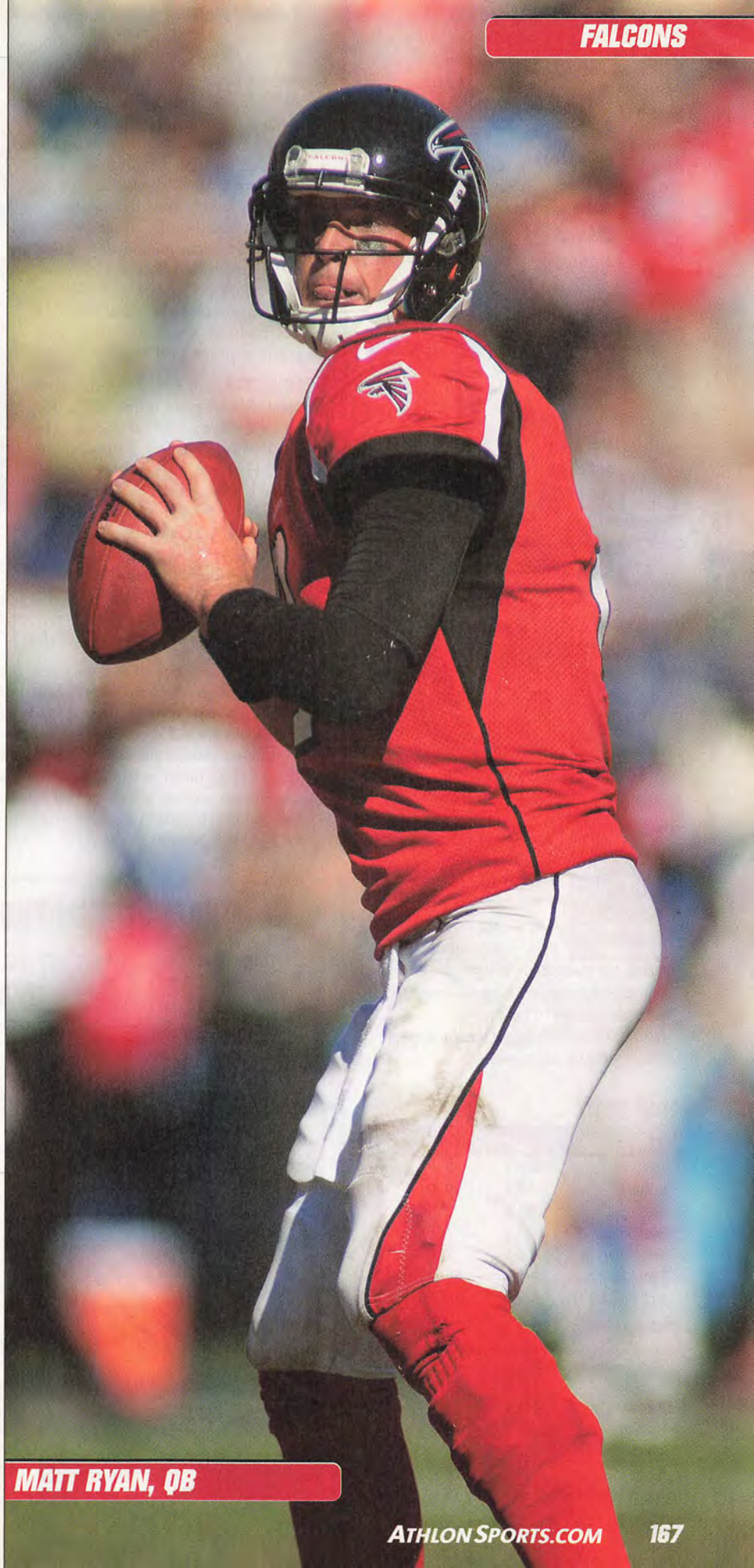
PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
LB	Brian Banks	Las Vegas (UFL)
RB	Steven Jackson	St. Louis
DE	Osi Umenyiora	N.Y. Giants

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
DE	John Abraham	Free Agent
CB	Brent Grimes	Miami
QB	Luke McCown	New Orleans
C	Todd McClure	Retired
CB	Dunta Robinson	Kansas City
RB	Michael Turner	Free Agent
DT	Vance Walker	Oakland



MATT RYAN, QB

2012 RESULTS (13-3)

Sept. 9	at Kansas City	W	40–24
Sept. 17	Denver	W	27–21
Sept. 23	at San Diego	W	27–3
Sept. 30	Carolina	W	30–28
Oct. 7	at Washington	W	24–17
Oct. 14	Oakland	W	23–20
Oct. 28	at Philadelphia	W	30–17
Nov. 4	Dallas	W	19–13
Nov. 11	at New Orleans	L	27–31
Nov. 18	Arizona	W	23–19
Nov. 25	at Tampa Bay	W	24–23
Nov. 29	New Orleans	W	23–13
Dec. 9	at Carolina	L	20–30
Dec. 16	N.Y. Giants	W	34–0
Dec. 22	at Detroit	W	31–18
Dec. 30	Tampa Bay	L	17–22
Postseason			
Jan. 13	Seattle	W	30–28
Jan. 20	San Francisco	L	24–28

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Matt Ryan	615	422	4,719	32	14

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Michael Turner	222	800	3.6	10
Jacquizz Rodgers	94	362	3.9	1
Matt Ryan	34	141	4.1	1
Jason Snelling	18	63	3.5	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Tony Gonzalez	93	930	10.0	8
Roddy White	92	1,351	14.7	7
Julio Jones	79	1,198	15.2	10
Jacquizz Rodgers	53	402	7.6	1
Harry Douglas	38	395	10.4	1

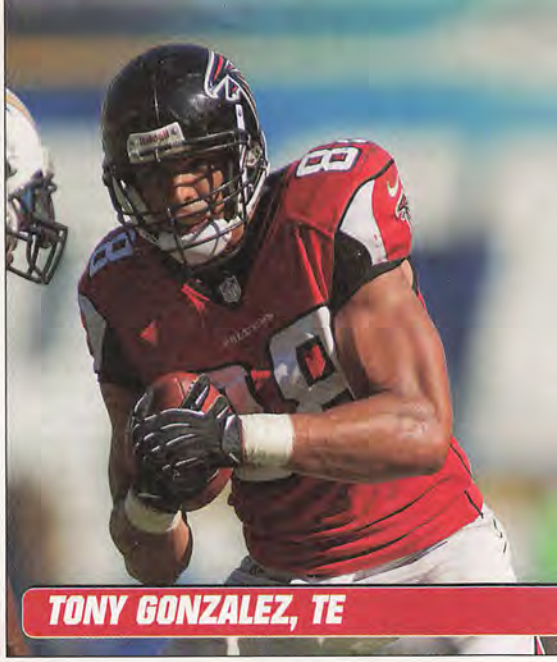
KICKING: Matt Bryant, 33-38 FGs, 44-44 XPs, 143 points
TACKLES: Stephen Nicholas, 97; Sean Weatherspoon, 95
SACKS: John Abraham, 10; Kroy Biermann, 4
INTERCEPTIONS: Thomas DeCoud, 6; Asante Samuel, 5
FORCED FUMBLES: John Abraham, 6

2012 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	369.1	8	5
Rushing	87.3	29	14
Passing	281.8	6	4
Scoring	26.2	7	5
Third Down %	45.1	2	1
Punt Returns	7.9	25	12
Kick Returns	23.7	14	7

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	365.6	24	12
Rushing	123.2	21	11
Passing	242.4	23	11
Scoring	18.7	5	4
Interceptions	20	T5	5
Sacks	29.0	28	15
Turnover Differential	+13	T5	T4

because of his penchant for gambling. Rookie Desmond Trufant plays with a similar swagger to Samuel. He has the athleticism and ball skills to start right away. The nickel back position has been a major problem spot for the Falcons. It's basically a starting spot with so many high-profile passing attacks in the NFC. Rookie Robert Alford should be an immediate upgrade over the undersized Robert McClain. Safeties Thomas DeCoud and William Moore form one of the best tandems in the league. Both are aggressive hitters with range and improving ball skills.


TONY GONZALEZ, TE

SPECIALISTS The Falcons' special teams are solid. Matt Bryant is one of the best clutch kickers in the NFL, as evidenced by his game-winner against Seattle in the playoffs. He has a range of just over 50 yards and is very accurate and dependable from inside the 50. He has enough leg to consistently send his kickoffs into the end zone.

Punter Matt Bosher needs to improve his directional punting and get-off time. He had two punts blocked last season. Still, he boasts a solid combination of distance and hang time.

Rodgers and Dominique Franks are average return men. The coverage units are solid and should improve with the influx of fresh legs in the draft.

FINAL ANALYSIS For all of their recent success, there's been something missing from the Falcons. For whatever reason, they've lacked the aggressiveness and competence of their NFC rivals in Green Bay, New Orleans and San Francisco. They've been good, but not good enough.

The Falcons are and should be the favorites to repeat as NFC South champs. They are the most complete team in the division and have several young players emerging into stars. Their window of opportunity to win a Super Bowl in the Ryan era is still wide open. If Jackson and Umenyiora can produce at their former levels and the defense can improve just a little, Atlanta should cruise to its fourth consecutive playoff appearance and challenge San Francisco and Green Bay for superiority in the NFC.

NFL DRAFT 2013 FALCONS IN THE DRAFT

B

RD PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1. Desmond Trufant	CB	6-0	190	Washington
2. Robert Alford	CB	5-10	188	SE Louisiana
4. Malliciah Goodman	DE	6-4	276	Clemson
4. Levine Toilolo	TE	6-8	260	Stanford
5. Stansly Moponga	DE	6-2	256	TCU
7. Kemal Ishmael	DB	5-11	206	UCF
7. Zeke Motta	S	6-2	213	Notre Dame
7. Sean Renfree	QB	6-3	219	Duke

The Falcons used their first two picks to take two of the best cover cornerbacks in the draft. Both have excellent balls skills, a point of emphasis by the Falcons' personnel department. Desmond Trufant has the size and competitiveness to start immediately on the right side opposite Asante Samuel. Robert Alford could be a sleeper. He played at a small school but has the skills to compete for the starting nickel spot. Malliciah Goodman should figure into the rotation at end behind Kroy Biermann and Osi Umenyiora. Levine Toilolo should see immediate playing time in two-tight end sets and is the heir apparent to Tony Gonzalez's starting spot. Kemal Ishmael and Zeke Motta add depth and have a chance to upgrade the Falcons' coverage units.

Gonzalez: Peter Brouillet; Trufant: Ric Fogel

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
4 Davis, Dominique	QB	6-3	210	1	East Carolina	FA-12	FA-Atl-12
2 Ryan, Matt	QB	6-4	217	5	Boston College	D1a-08	D1a-Atl-08
RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
34 Ewing, Bradie	FB	5-11	243	1	Wisconsin	D5-12	D5-Atl-12
39 Jackson, Steven	RB	6-2	240	9	Oregon State	FA-StL-13	D1-StL-04
32 Rodgers, Jacquizz	RB	5-6	196	2	Oregon State	D5-11	D5-Atl-11
35 Smith, Antone	RB	5-9	192	3	Florida State	FA-09	FA-Det-09
44 Snelling, Jason	RB	5-11	234	6	Virginia	D7-07	D7-Atl-07
40 Vaughan, Josh	RB	6-0	225	2	Richmond	FA-12	FA-TB-09
RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
86 Coffman, Chase	TE	6-6	250	3	Missouri	FA-12	D3-Cin-09
15 Cone, Kevin	WR	6-2	216	2	Georgia Tech	FA-11	FA-Atl-11
19 Davis, Drew	WR	6-1	205	1	Oregon	FA-12	FA-Atl-11
83 Douglas, Harry	WR	6-0	183	4	Louisville	D3b-08	D3b-Atl-08
87 Gallarda, Tommy	TE	6-5	262	1	Boise State	FA-11	FA-Jac-11
88 Gonzalez, Tony	TE	6-5	247	16	California	T-KC-09	D1-KC-97
16 Jackson, Marcus	WR	6-1	195	1	Lamar	FA-12	FA-Atl-12
11 Jones, Julio	WR	6-3	220	2	Alabama	D1-11	D1-Atl-11
86 Nissley, Adam	TE	6-6	267	1	UCF	FA-12	FA-Atl-12
18 Rodgers, James	WR	5-7	188	1	Oregon State	FA-12	FA-Atl-12
85 Szczerba, Andrew	TE	6-6	256	1	Penn State	FA-12	FA-Dal-12
17 Toone, Tim	WR	5-10	175	1	Weber State	FA-12	D7-Det-10
84 White, Roddy	WR	6-0	211	8	UAB	D1-05	D1-Atl-05
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
72 Baker, Sam	T	6-5	301	5	USC	D1b-08	D1b-Atl-08
63 Blalock, Justin	G	6-4	326	6	Texas	D2a-07	D2a-Atl-07
69 Gunn, Harland	G	6-2	310	1	Miami	FA-12	FA-Dal-12
61 Hawley, Joe	C	6-3	302	3	UNLV	D4-10	D4-Atl-10
76 Holmes, Lamar	T	6-6	333	1	Southern Miss	D3-12	D3-Atl-12
79 Johnson, Mike	OL	6-6	304	2	Alabama	D3b-10	D3b-Atl-10
66 Konz, Peter	C/G	6-5	317	1	Wisconsin	D2-12	D2-Atl-12
68 Manley, Phillipkeith	G	6-5	309	1	Toledo	FA-12	FA-Atl-12
65 McClendon, Jacques	G/C	6-3	324	2	Tennessee	FA-12	D4-Ind-10
75 Reynolds, Garrett	G	6-7	310	4	North Carolina	D5b-09	D5b-Atl-09
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
95 Babineaux, Jonathan	DT	6-2	300	8	Iowa	D2-05	D2-Atl-05
71 Biermann, Kroy	DE	6-3	255	5	Montana	D5b-08	D5b-Atl-08
94 Jerry, Peria	DT	6-2	295	3	Ole Miss	D1-09	D1-Atl-09
96 Massaquoi, Jonathan	DE	6-2	264	1	Troy	D5b-12	D5b-Atl-12
98 Matthews, Cliff	DE	6-4	268	2	South Carolina	D7b-11	D7b-Atl-11
91 Peters, Corey	DT	6-3	305	3	Kentucky	D3a-10	D3a-Atl-10
67 Regis, Micanor	DT	6-3	305	1	Miami	FA-12	FA-Atl-12
92 Robertson, Travian	DT	6-4	304	1	South Carolina	D7-12	D7-Atl-12
90 Umenyiora, Osi	DE	6-3	255	10	Troy	FA-NYG-13	D2-NYG-03
LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
53 Banks, Brian	LB	6-2	250	1	None	FA-13	FA-Atl-13
52 Dent, Akeem	LB	6-1	239	2	Georgia	D3-11	D3-Atl-11
51 James, Robert	LB	5-11	224	3	Arizona State	FA-10	D5-Atl-08
54 Nicholas, Stephen	LB	6-3	236	6	South Florida	D4a-07	D4a-Atl-07
50 Schiller, Pat	LB	6-2	235	1	Northern Illinois	FA-12	FA-Atl-12
56 Weatherspoon, Sean	LB	6-2	244	3	Missouri	D1-10	D1-Atl-10
DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
28 DeCoud, Thomas	S	6-2	192	5	California	D3c-08	D3c-Atl-08
24 Franks, Dominique	CB	6-0	197	3	Oklahoma	D5a-10	D5a-Atl-10
27 McClain, Robert	CB	5-9	195	3	Connecticut	FA-12	D7-Car-10
26 Mitchell, Charles	S	5-11	205	1	Mississippi State	D6-12	D6-Atl-12
25 Moore, William	S	6-0	221	3	Missouri	D2-09	D2-Atl-09
22 Samuel, Asante	CB	5-10	185	10	UCF	T-Phi-12	D4-NE-03
39 Schillinger, Shann	S	6-0	200	3	Montana	D6-10	D6-Atl-10
37 Thompson, Peyton	CB	5-11	180	1	San Jose State	FA-12	FA-Atl-12
SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
5 Bosher, Matt	K/P	6-0	208	2	Miami	D6-10	D6-Atl-10
3 Bryant, Matt	K	5-9	203	11	Baylor	FA-09	FA-NYG-02
47 Harris, Josh	LS	6-1	224	1	Auburn	FA-12	FA-Atl-12

Peter Brouillet

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	84	Roddy White
	83	Harry Douglas
WR	11	Julio Jones
	19	Drew Davis
LT	72	Sam Baker
	79	Mike Johnson
LG	63	Justin Blalock
	68	Phillipkeith Manley
C	66	Peter Konz
	61	Joe Hawley
RG	75	Garrett Reynolds
	65	Jacques McClendon
RT	76	Lamar Holmes
	79	Mike Johnson
TE	88	Tony Gonzalez
	80	Levine Toilolo (R)
QB	2	Matt Ryan
	12	Sean Renfree (R)
RB	39	Steven Jackson
	32	Jacquizz Rodgers
FB	34	Bradie Ewing

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	71	Kroy Biermann
	93	Malliciah Goodman (R)
DT	91	Corey Peters
	94	Peria Jerry
DT	95	Jonathan Babineaux
	92	Travian Robertson
DE	90	Osi Umenyiora
	98	Cliff Matthews
SLB	54	Stephen Nicholas
	51	Robert James
MLB	52	Akeem Dent
	53	Brian Banks
WLB	56	Sean Weatherspoon
	50	Pat Schiller
CB	22	Asante Samuel
	27	Robert McClain
CB	21	Desmond Trufant (R)
	23	Robert Alford (R)
SS	25	William Moore
	41	Zeke Motta (R)
FS	28	Thomas DeCoud
	26	Charles Mitchell

SPECIALISTS

K	3	Matt Bryant
P	5	Matt Bosher
KR	24	Dominique Franks
PR	32	Jacquizz Rodgers

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
Jacquizz Rodgers, RB

DEEP-SLEEPER
Drew Davis, WR

OVERVALUED
None

TOP ROOKIE
Desmond Trufant, CB

BOUNCE-BACK
Osi Umenyiora, DE

TOP IDP
Sean Weatherspoon, LB

For more Fantasy, visit **AthlonSports.com/fantasy** or follow **@AthlonSports** on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 8	at New Orleans	1:00	7-9	410.9 (2)	440.1(32)	28.8 (3)	28.4(31)
2	Sept. 15	St. Louis	1:00	7-8	329.0(23)	342.6(14)	18.7(25)	21.8(14)
3	Sept. 22	at Miami	4:05	7-9	311.5(27)	356.8(21)	18.0(27)	19.8 (7)
4	Sept. 29	New England	8:30	12-4	427.9 (1)	373.2(25)	34.8 (1)	20.7 (9)
5	Oct. 7	N.Y. Jets (Mon.)	8:40	6-10	299.2(30)	323.4 (8)	17.6(28)	23.4(20)
6		BYE						
7	Oct. 20	Tampa Bay	1:00	7-9	363.8 (9)	379.9(29)	24.3(13)	24.6(23)
8	Oct. 27	at Arizona	4:25	5-11	263.1(32)	337.8(12)	15.6(31)	22.3(17)
9	Nov. 3	at Carolina	1:00	7-9	360.7(12)	333.1(10)	22.3(18)	22.7(18)
10	Nov. 10	Seattle	1:00	11-5	350.6(17)	306.2 (4)	25.8 (9)	15.3 (1)
11	Nov. 17	at Tampa Bay	1:00	7-9	363.8 (9)	379.9(29)	24.3(13)	24.6(23)
12	Nov. 21	New Orleans (Thu.)	8:25	7-9	410.9 (2)	440.1(32)	28.8 (3)	28.4(31)
13	Dec. 1	Buffalo (Toronto)	4:05	6-10	342.9(19)	362.9(22)	21.5(21)	27.2(26)
14	Dec. 8	at Green Bay	8:30	11-5	359.4(13)	336.8(11)	27.1 (5)	21.0(11)
15	Dec. 15	Washington	1:00	10-6	383.2 (5)	377.7(28)	27.2 (4)	24.2(22)
16	Dec. 23	at San Francisco (Mon.)	8:40	11-4	361.8(11)	294.4 (3)	24.8(11)	17.1 (2)
17	Dec. 29	Carolina	1:00	7-9	360.7(12)	333.1(10)	22.3(18)	22.7(18)

CAROLINA PANTHERS

NFC SOUTH FORECAST 4

See more cheerleaders by visiting AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER/FOUNDER: Jerry Richardson
PRESIDENT: Danny Morrison
GENERAL MANAGER: Dave Gettleman
STADIUM: Bank of America Stadium (73,778)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.panthers.com
TICKETS: 800-745-3000
TRAINING CAMP: Wofford College (Spartanburg, S.C.)

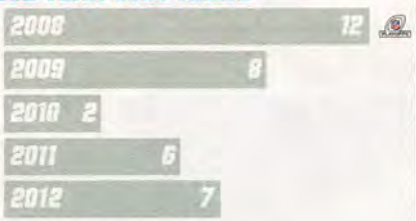
Ron Rivera's third season as the Carolina Panthers' head coach may be his last if the team can't make the playoffs for the first time since the 2008 season. Team owner Jerry Richardson made Rivera wait six agonizing days after the 2012 season before deciding that the former NFL linebacker for the Chicago Bears deserved another shot at leading the team in 2013. Rivera had been put on notice that he was on the hot seat following the Panthers' disappointing 1–5 start that cost longtime general manger Marty Hurney his job. The new decision-maker is Dave Gettleman, who had been with the N.Y. Giants organization since 1998.

The Panthers dug themselves too deep of a hole to make the playoffs last year but did finish 5–1 over the final six games to end up with a 7–9 record. They managed top-12 rankings in both total offense and total defense and will build this year's team around quarterback Cam Newton on offense and middle linebacker Luke Kuechly on defense. With Rivera's fate likely hanging in the balance, this could be the year the team makes a leap. For the popular coach's sake, it better be.

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Ron Rivera
RECORD WITH TEAM: 13-19
CAREER RECORD: 13-19
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Mike Shula
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Sean McDermott

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



Playoffs

LUKE KUECHLY, LB

OFFENSE It starts with Newton, who will have a new offensive coordinator this year since Rob Chudzinski was the surprise choice for the Cleveland Browns' head job. Mike Shula was promoted from quarterbacks coach to replace "Chud," who was running the zone-read in 2011 with Newton well before it became such a hot NFL trend.

Newton became a slightly more conventional quarterback in 2012, as his rushing TDs went down and his time in the pocket went slightly up. He remains very effective as a dual-threat quarterback — he led the team in rushing with 741 yards — but the Panthers would like to cut down on the number of hits he takes. He is already protecting the ball better, having thrown a team-record 176 straight passes in 2012 without an interception.

Ageless wide receiver Steve Smith had his seventh 1,000-yard season in 2012 and, at 34, will remain the Panthers' biggest receiving threat in 2013. He has found new life with Newton, but the question is how much longer he can stay effective. The Panthers badly need Brandon LaFell — their clear No. 2 receiver now — to emerge more frequently in 2013. Domenik Hixon and Ted Ginn, two veteran free agents, will likely compete for the No. 3 job. Tight end Greg Olsen is Newton's favorite target other than Smith and possesses some of the best hands on the team.

Newton can hand the ball off to three solid backs in DeAngelo Williams, Jonathan Stewart and Mike Tolbert. The Panthers have so much money invested in that trio that there has been speculation one of them must go given the club's constant salary-cap problems, but the team has managed to keep them so far. Williams is the game-breaker, Stewart the between-the-tackles bull and Tolbert the short-yardage specialist who hopes to take that burden off of Newton.

The offensive line is the biggest question on this unit. Left tackle Jordan Gross still has good feet but doesn't have many years left. Center Ryan Kalil is one of the league's best, but the other three spots all have question marks. Every team's defensive game plan involves going after Newton, and whether this group is up to the task of protecting him will have much to do with how the season goes. If Newton were to go down, veteran backup Derek Anderson would direct the team. He's a good thrower, but the team would then be forced to use a much more conventional offense.

DEFENSE Kuechly's outstanding rookie year was the biggest revelation in 2012, a year in which the Panthers improved to 10th in total defense — 18 spots better than they had been a year before. Kuechly took over for injured middle linebacker Jon Beason early in the season and played so well he ended up as the AP Defensive Rookie of the Year. He is a tackling machine and led the NFL in tackles, becoming the first rookie to do so since San Francisco's Patrick Willis in 2007.

After that year, Kuechly isn't going anywhere even though Beason is trying to return after major injuries short-circuited each of his last two seasons. Like Kuechly, Beason is a very fast, side-to-side linebacker who can play in all situations when healthy. Strong-side linebacker Thomas Davis made a tremendous comeback in 2012 after three ACL surgeries on the same knee and will man that position once again. Free agent signee Chase Blackburn will provide depth and a steady locker-room presence.

The Panthers' defensive front should be one of the team's strengths. In 2012, defensive ends

Newton, Kuechly: Peter Brouillet; Cheer: Streeter Lecka/Getty Images

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Not this time Center Ryan Kalil made waves in the summer of 2012 when, on the eve of the season, he took out a full-page ad in *The Charlotte Observer* at a personal cost of several thousand dollars proclaiming that the Panthers were about to win the Super Bowl. Instead, they finished out of the playoffs for the 14th time in the franchise's 18 seasons. Kalil says he doesn't regret the ad but won't be duplicating it in 2013.

Cam's clothes Cam Newton now has a clothing line at 133 Belk department stores. It includes everything from suits and ties to $28 T-shirts — more than 60 products altogether. Newton has appeared previously in a couple of *GQ* fashion photo shoots and is involved in selecting the colors and patterns of his clothing line. He likes to include bright colors like teal and orange.

School days Both Newton and Luke Kuechly returned to college in the spring to work on their degrees. Newton caused quite a stir at Auburn, as students constantly took pictures of him and posted them on various social media sites. Kuechly had a much more low-profile semester at Boston College.

Keep pounding The Panthers' jerseys now feature the words "Keep Pounding" sewn into the collar. Former Panthers linebacker Sam Mills used those words in a passionate speech to the team prior to a postseason playoff game in 2004 against Dallas, which Carolina won. Mills, now deceased, was fighting cancer at the time. He is the only player in team history to have his jersey (No. 51) retired.

Big money Defensive end Charles Johnson picked up the nickname "Big Money" after signing a huge contract extension with the Panthers in 2011, but he has been earning the cash. Johnson has led the Panthers in sacks in each of the last three seasons and now ranks third on the team's all-time sacks list (43), trailing Julius Peppers (81) and Mike Rucker (55.5) but slightly ahead of Kevin Greene (41.5).

The "Kraken" The other starting defensive end, Greg Hardy, is much more of a character than Johnson. He calls himself the "Kraken" on game days, referring to the mythological sea monster, and he takes that alter-ego so seriously that he paints his face and wears different-colored contact lenses.

Schedule blues For the second time in three years, the Panthers have the NFL's toughest schedule based on opponents' winning percentage the previous season. Carolina has six games against playoff teams from 2012, and three of those teams — New England, Minnesota and San Francisco — will be fresh off a bye week.

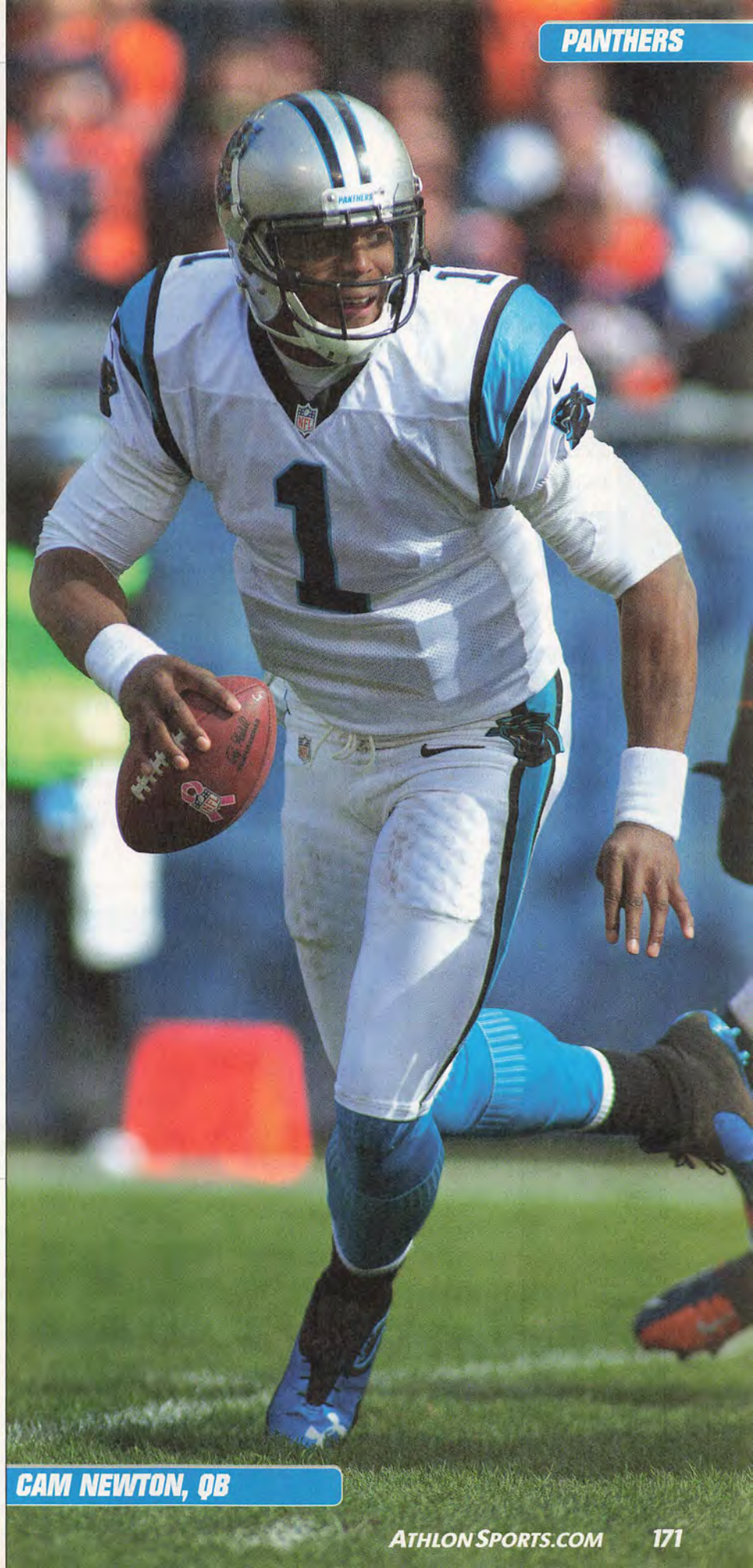
PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
LB	Chase Blackburn	N.Y. Giants
CB	Drayton Florence	Detroit
KR/WR	Ted Ginn	San Francisco
WR	Domenik Hixon	N.Y. Giants
S	Mike Mitchell	Oakland

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
LB	James Anderson	Chicago
TE	Gary Barnidge	Cleveland
DT	Ron Edwards	Free Agent
CB	Chris Gamble	Retired
WR	Louis Murphy	N.Y. Giants



CAM NEWTON, QB

2012 RESULTS (7–9)

Sept. 9	at Tampa Bay	L	10–16
Sept. 16	New Orleans	W	35–27
Sept. 20	N.Y. Giants	L	7–36
Sept. 30	at Atlanta	L	28–30
Oct. 7	Seattle	L	12–16
Oct. 21	Dallas	L	14–19
Oct. 28	at Chicago	L	22–23
Nov. 4	at Washington	W	21–13
Nov. 11	Denver	L	14–36
Nov. 18	Tampa Bay (ot)	L	21–27
Nov. 26	at Philadelphia	W	30–22
Dec. 2	at Kansas City	L	21–27
Dec. 9	Atlanta	W	30–20
Dec. 16	at San Diego	W	31–7
Dec. 23	Oakland	W	17–6
Dec. 30	at New Orleans	W	44–38

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Cam Newton	485	280	3,869	19	12
Derek Anderson	4	4	58	0	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Cam Newton	127	741	5.8	8
DeAngelo Williams	173	737	4.3	5
Jonathan Stewart	93	336	3.6	1
Mike Tolbert	54	183	3.4	7

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Steve Smith	73	1,174	16.1	4
Greg Olsen	69	843	12.2	5
Brandon LaFell	44	677	15.4	4
Mike Tolbert	27	268	9.9	0

KICKING: Graham Gano, 9-11 FGs, 20-21 XPs, 47 points
TACKLES: Luke Kuechly, 164; Thomas Davis, 105
SACKS: Charles Johnson, 12.5; Greg Hardy, 11
INTERCEPTIONS: Captain Munnerlyn, 2; Haruki Nakamura, 2
FORCED FUMBLES: Charles Johnson, 7

2012 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	360.7	12	8
Rushing	130.5	9	5
Passing	230.2	16	9
Scoring	22.3	T18	13
Third Down %	43.1	6	4
Punt Returns	10.2	14	5
Kick Returns	22.2	22	10

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	333.1	10	4
Rushing	110.1	14	7
Passing	223.0	13	7
Scoring	22.7	18	10
Interceptions	11	T23	T12
Sacks	39.0	T9	5
Turnover Differential	+1	16	10

Charles Johnson (12.5 sacks) and Greg Hardy (11) gave Carolina its first pair of double-digit sackers since 2002. Hardy has faced some maturity issues but seems to have picked up some of Johnson's quiet resolve. At defensive tackle, veteran Dwan Edwards will be joined by a pair of top-50 draft picks — Star Lotulelei and Kawann Short. Both will help by keeping blockers off Kuechly, who does his best work when he's free to roam.

The secondary is where the most questions lie. Gettleman restructured a lot of it with some under-the-radar free agent signings in 2013. Cornerback Drayton Florence and strong safety Mike Mitchell are low-profile veterans who will both have a chance to start. Cornerback Josh Norman started for 12 games as a rookie in 2012 and then got benched, but Gettleman likes his potential. Charles Godfrey is the leader in the back at free safety. Captain Munnerlyn is an undersized but tough nickel cornerback. Whether this group can survive repeated attacks by the franchise quarterbacks of the NFC South is key.

SPECIALISTS This is a middle-of-the-pack group at best. Placekicker Graham Gano came on in 2012 after the Panthers cut ties with Olindo Mare, who was one of Hurney's real miscalculations. Brad Nortman had an uneven rookie year as the team's punter and needs to improve. Ginn, who returns kickoffs and punts, should add a splash of excitement for the first time since Smith handled those jobs early in his career and perhaps spell the end of the Armanti Edwards experiment.

FINAL ANALYSIS In their first two years under Rivera, the Panthers have gotten off to horrible starts that doomed the season. They can't afford to do that again. Newton and Kuechly are fine cornerstones on which to build, and there are fewer holes on this team than you would likely expect from a squad that hasn't had a winning season since 2008.

NFL DRAFT 2013 PANTHERS IN THE DRAFT

B-

RD PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1. Star Lotulelei	DT	6-2	311	Utah
2. Kawann Short	DT	6-3	299	Purdue
4. Edmund Kugbila	T	6-4	317	Valdosta State
5. A.J. Klein	LB	6-1	250	Iowa State
6. Kenjon Barner	RB	5-9	196	Oregon

Where's the beef? In this draft. The Panthers concentrated on the trenches, using their first three picks on linemen in the 300-pound range. Both defensive tackles should play right away — Star Lotulelei is more of a run-stopper and Kawann Short more of a pass-rusher. Lotulelei became the second straight No. 1 Panther draft pick to decline the NFL's invitation to go on an all-expense paid trip to New York and instead watch it from home with his family (Luke Kuechly did the same thing). Lotulelei is the rare rookie who is already married and has two young daughters. Edmund Kugbila will compete for a starting job at right guard. A.J. Klein should be a special teams contributor right away and provide depth at linebacker. Kenjon Barner needs an impressive training camp to make the active roster — the running back field is crowded. The Panthers signed Ted Ginn to handle kick returns.

Peter Brouillet

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

	QUARTERBACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
3	Anderson, Derek	QB	6-6	230	8	Oregon State	FA-11	D6-Bal-05
7	Clausen, Jimmy	QB	6-2	215	3	Notre Dame	D2-10	D2-Car-10
1	Newton, Cam	QB	6-5	245	2	Auburn	D1-11	D1-Car-11
	RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
33	Poole, Tauren	RB	5-10	215	1	Tennessee	FA-12	FA-Car-12
36	Smith, Armond	RB	5-9	190	2	Union College	FA-12	FA-Cle-11
28	Stewart, Jonathan	RB	5-10	235	5	Oregon	D1a-08	D1a-Car-08
35	Tolbert, Mike	FB	5-9	245	5	Coastal Carolina	FA-SD-12	FA-SD-08
34	Williams, DeAngelo	RB	5-9	215	7	Memphis	D1-06	D1-Car-06
	RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
15	Adams, Joe	WR	5-11	180	1	Arkansas	D4b-12	D4b-Car-12
47	Brockel, Richie	TE/FB	6-1	255	2	Boise State	FA-11	FA-SD-10
18	Bryant, Lamont	WR	6-5	225	1	Morgan State	FA-12	FA-Car-12
14	Edwards, Armanti	WR	5-11	190	3	Appalachian State	D3b-10	D3b-Car-10
12	Gettis, David	WR	6-3	220	3	Baylor	D6b-10	D6b-Car-10
19	Ginn Jr., Ted	WR	5-11	180	6	Ohio State	FA-SF-13	D1-Mia-07
84	Hartsock, Ben	TE	6-4	260	10	Ohio State	FA-11	D3-Ind-04
87	Hixon, Domenik	WR	6-2	197	7	Akron	FA-NYG-13	D4-Den-06
11	LaFell, Brandon	WR	6-2	210	3	LSU	D3a-10	D3a-Car-10
88	Olsen, Greg	TE	6-5	255	6	Miami	T-Chi-11	D1-Chi-07
81	Pilares, Kealoha	WR	5-10	200	2	Hawaii	D5-11	D5-Car-11
80	Rosario, Nelson	TE	6-5	225	1	UCLA	FA-12	FA-Jac-12
89	Smith, Steve	WR	5-9	185	12	Utah	D3-01	D3-Car-01
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
71	Austin, Thomas	C/G	6-4	310	2	Clemson	FA-12	FA-Min-10
77	Bell, Byron	T	6-5	340	2	New Mexico	FA-11	FA-Car-11
62	Byers, Jeff	G/C	6-4	310	1	USC	FA-11	FA-Sea-10
73	Campbell, Bruce	T	6-6	315	3	Maryland	T-Oak-12	D4-Oak-10
69	Gross, Jordan	T	6-4	305	10	Utah	D1-03	D1-Car-03
63	Hangartner, Geoff	C/G	6-5	300	8	Texas A&M	FA-11	D5-Car-05
75	Hicks, Hayworth	G	6-3	335	1	Iowa State	FA-12	FA-Ind-12
67	Kalil, Ryan	C	6-2	295	6	USC	D2b-07	D2b-Car-07
61	Silatolu, Amini	G	6-4	315	1	Midwestern State	D2-12	D2-Car-12
65	Williams, Garry	T	6-3	320	4	Kentucky	FA-09	FA-Car-09
64	Williams, Zack	G	6-3	315	2	Washington State	D6b-11	D6b-Car-11
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
97	Addison, Mario	DE	6-3	260	2	Troy	FA-12	FA-Chi-11
90	Alexander, Frank	DE	6-4	270	1	Oklahoma	D4a-12	D4a-Car-12
78	Chandler, Nate	DT	6-4	300	1	UCLA	FA-12	FA-Car-12
91	Cole, Colin	DT	6-2	328	7	Iowa	FA-13	FA-Min-03
92	Edwards, Dwan	DT	6-3	300	9	Oregon State	FA-12	D2-Bal-04
94	Fua, Sione	DT	6-1	310	2	Stanford	D3b-11	D3b-Car-11
76	Hardy, Greg	DE	6-4	290	3	Ole Miss	D6a-10	D6a-Car-10
95	Johnson, Charles	DE	6-2	285	6	Georgia	D3-07	D3-Car-07
99	Kearse, Frank	DT	6-5	315	2	Alabama A&M	FA-11	D7-Mia-11
98	Keiser, Thomas	DE	6-4	260	2	Stanford	FA-11	FA-Car-11
68	Neblett, Andre	DT	6-0	310	3	Temple	FA-10	FA-Car-10
	LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
52	Beason, Jon	LB	6-0	235	6	Miami	D1-07	D1-Car-07
93	Blackburn, Chase	LB	6-3	242	8	Akron	FA-NYG-13	FA-NYG-05
58	Davis, Thomas	LB	6-1	235	8	Georgia	D1-05	D1-Car-05
55	Hogue, Doug	LB	6-2	226	2	Syracuse	W-Det-12	D5-Det-11
59	Kuechly, Luke	LB	6-3	235	1	Boston College	D1-12	D1-Car-12
57	Senn, Jordan	LB	5-11	225	5	Portland State	FA-09	FA-Ind-08
54	Williams, Jason	LB	6-1	245	4	Western Illinois	W-Phi-12	D3-Dal-09
	DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
26	Campbell, D.J.	S	6-0	200	1	California	D7-12	D7-Car-12
31	Dockery, James	CB	6-1	185	2	Oregon State	FA-12	FA-Cle-11
29	Florence, Drayton	CB	6-0	193	10	Tuskegee	FA-Det-13	D2-SD-03
30	Godfrey, Charles	S	5-11	210	5	Iowa	D3a-08	D3a-Car-08
37	Hixson, Nick	CB	6-1	185	1	Hillsdale	FA-12	FA-NO-12
42	Jones, Colin	S	6-0	208	2	TCU	T-SF-12	D6b-SF-11
21	Mitchell, Mike	S	6-0	213	4	Ohio	FA-Oak-13	D2-Oak-09
20	Moore, D.J.	CB	5-9	180	4	Vanderbilt	FA-Chi-13	D4b-Chi-09
41	Munnerlyn, Captain	CB	5-8	190	4	South Carolina	D7-09	D7-Car-09
43	Nakamura, Haruki	S	5-10	205	5	Cincinnati	FA-Bal-12	D6-Bal-08
24	Norman, Josh	CB	6-0	195	1	Coastal Carolina	D5-12	D5-Car-12
40	Russell, Anderson	S	6-0	208	2	Ohio State	FA-12	FA-Was-10
22	Thomas, Josh	CB	5-11	190	2	Buffalo	W-Dal-11	D5-Dal-11
	SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
9	Gano, Graham	K	6-2	195	3	Florida State	FA-12	FA-Bal-09
44	Jansen, J.J.	LS	6-2	245	5	Notre Dame	T-GB-09	FA-GB-08
8	Nortman, Brad	P	6-2	210	1	Wisconsin	D6-12	D6-Car-12

Peter Brouillet

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	89	Steve Smith
	87	Domenik Hixon
WR	11	Brandon LaFell
	19	Ted Ginn
LT	69	Jordan Gross
	73	Bruce Campbell
LG	61	Amini Silatolu
	70	Edmund Kugbila (R)
C	67	Ryan Kalil
	62	Jeff Byers
RG	63	Geoff Hangartner
	70	Edmund Kugbila (R)
RT	77	Byron Bell
	65	Garry Williams
TE	88	Greg Olsen
	84	Ben Hartsock
QB	1	Cam Newton
	3	Derek Anderson
FB	35	Mike Tolbert
	47	Richie Brockel
RB	34	DeAngelo Williams
	28	Jonathan Stewart

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	76	Greg Hardy
	90	Frank Alexander
DT	92	Dwan Edwards
	68	Kawann Short (R)
NT	96	Star Lotulelei (R)
	91	Colin Cole
DE	95	Charles Johnson
	98	Thomas Keiser
SLB	58	Thomas Davis
	57	Jordan Senn
MLB	59	Luke Kuechly
	93	Chase Blackburn
WLB	52	Jon Beason
	56	A.J. Klein (R)
CB	29	Drayton Florence
	41	Captain Munnerlyn
CB	24	Josh Norman
	22	Josh Thomas
SS	21	Mike Mitchell
	26	D.J. Campbell
FS	30	Charles Godfrey
	43	Haruki Nakamura

SPECIALISTS

K	9	Graham Gano
P	8	Brad Nortman
KR	19	Ted Ginn
PR	19	Ted Ginn

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
Brandon LaFell, WR

DEEP-SLEEPER
Domenik Hixon, WR

OVERVALUED
Mike Tolbert, RB

TOP ROOKIE
Kenjon Barner, RB

BOUNCE-BACK
Jonathan Stewart, RB

TOP IDP
Luke Kuechly, LB

For more Fantasy, visit **AthlonSports.com/fantasy** or follow **@AthlonSports** on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 8	Seattle	1:00	11-5	350.6 (17)	306.2 (4)	25.8 (9)	15.3 (1)
2	Sept. 15	at Buffalo	1:00	6-10	342.9 (19)	362.9 (22)	21.5 (21)	27.2 (26)
3	Sept. 22	N.Y. Giants	1:00	9-7	355.4 (14)	383.4 (31)	26.8 (6)	21.5 (12)
4		BYE						
5	Oct. 6	at Arizona	4:05	5-11	263.1 (32)	337.8 (12)	15.6 (31)	22.3 (17)
6	Oct. 13	at Minnesota	1:00	10-6	336.6 (20)	350.0 (16)	23.7 (14)	21.8 (14)
7	Oct. 20	St. Louis	1:00	7-8-1	329.0 (23)	342.6 (14)	18.7 (25)	21.8 (14)
8	Oct. 24	at Tampa Bay (Thu.)	8:25	7-9	363.8 (9)	379.9 (29)	24.3 (13)	24.6 (23)
9	Nov. 3	Atlanta	1:00	13-3	369.1 (8)	365.6 (24)	26.2 (7)	18.7 (5)
10	Nov. 10	at San Francisco	4:05	11-4-1	361.8 (11)	294.4 (3)	24.8 (11)	17.1 (2)
11	Nov. 18	New England (Mon.)	8:40	12-4	427.9 (1)	373.2 (25)	34.8 (1)	20.7 (T9)
12	Nov. 24	at Miami	1:00	7-9	311.5 (27)	356.8 (21)	18.0 (27)	19.8 (7)
13	Dec. 1	Tampa Bay	1:00	7-9	363.8 (9)	379.9 (29)	24.3 (13)	24.6 (23)
14	Dec. 8	at New Orleans	1:00	7-9	410.9 (2)	440.1 (32)	28.8 (3)	28.4 (31)
15	Dec. 15	N.Y. Jets	4:05	6-10	299.2 (30)	323.4 (8)	17.6 (28)	23.4 (20)
16	Dec. 22	New Orleans	1:00	7-9	410.9 (2)	440.1 (32)	28.8 (3)	28.4 (31)
17	Dec. 29	at Atlanta	1:00	13-3	369.1 (8)	365.6 (24)	26.2 (7)	18.7 (5)

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

NFC SOUTH FORECAST **2**

See more cheerleaders by visiting AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER/CHAIRMAN: Tom Benson
PRESIDENT: Dennis Lauscha
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/ GENERAL MANAGER: Mickey Loomis
STADIUM: Mercedes-Benz Superdome (73,208)
SURFACE: Momentum Turf
WEBSITE: www.neworleanssaints.com
TICKETS: 504-731-1700
TRAINING CAMP: New Orleans Saints training facility (Metairie, La.)

SAINTS

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Sean Payton
RECORD WITH TEAM: 62-34
CAREER RECORD: 62-34
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Pete Carmichael, Jr.
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Rob Ryan

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

Playoffs Super Bowl Champion

The Saints enter the 2013 season as one of the most mysterious — and potentially dangerous — teams in the NFL. Are they the one-dimensional 7–9 squad that allowed an NFL-record 7,042 yards last season? Or the formidable 13–3 unit that set an NFL record for most yards gained in a season in 2011? The truth falls somewhere between the two extremes.

Coach Sean Payton's swagger and offensive creativity should return the edge to the sideline and locker room. So should the arrival of defensive coordinator Rob Ryan, who has installed a pressure-based 3-4 defense. But whether the Saints have enough to keep pace with rising NFC powers San Francisco, Atlanta and Seattle remains to be seen. One way or another, we know they won't be boring.

OFFENSE As long as Drew Brees is under center, the Saints will have a puncher's chance against anyone. Brees is the great equalizer for a team with a shaky defense and inconsistent running game. He spearheads an offense that has ranked first or second in total yards in five of the past seven seasons. The consummate field general, Brees understands every facet of Payton's sophisticated offense and consistently keeps the Saints a step ahead of the defense with astute pre-snap reads and audibles. His anticipation, accuracy and pocket awareness rank among the best in the NFL. Indeed, Brees' greatest strength might also be his biggest weakness. He can be interception-prone because he sometimes forces ill-advised throws.

Payton wants to re-establish the running game and become more physical up front. Mark Ingram should be the beneficiary of this renewed emphasis. The former first-round draft pick runs with power and balance and rarely is tackled by the first defender. It'll be interesting to see if he can regain the acceleration and explosiveness he showed before injuries ended his rookie season in 2011. Payton plans to put the ball in Ingram's hands more often this season. Pierre Thomas does a little bit of everything but lacks a special quality. He'll continue to work his way into the rotation and make plays, especially on screens. The diminutive Darren Sproles makes plays as a runner and receiver whenever he touches the ball in space.

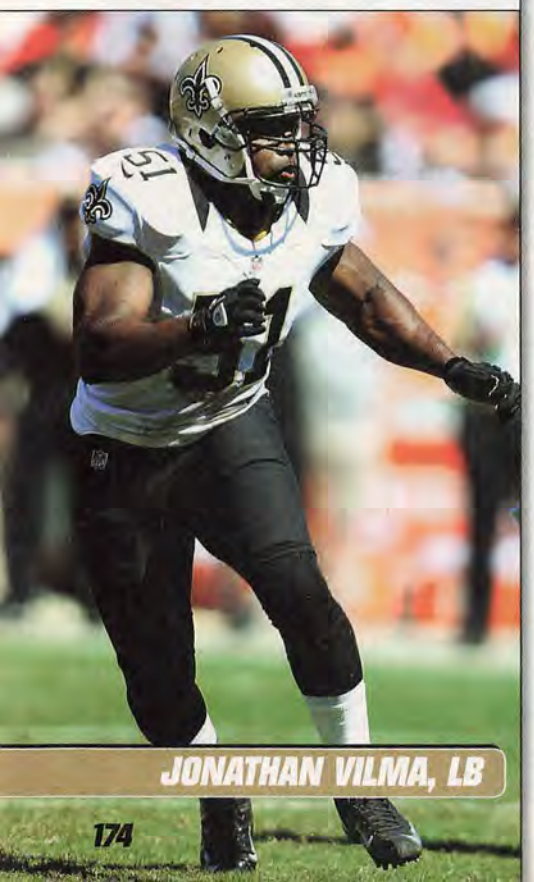
For the third consecutive year, the front line will have to find a replacement for a departing Pro Bowler. Jermon Bushrod's departure in free agency leaves a gaping hole at left tackle. Former second-round draft pick Charles Brown will get the first crack at the starting spot, but the staff is high on rookie Terron Armstead. Both are excellent athletes who lack experience and prototypical bulk and power. When healthy, Brown has played well in cameo appearances. Reclamation project Jason Smith is the fallback option. The rest of the line returns intact, led by road-grader guards Jahri Evans and Ben Grubbs.

The receiving corps lacks a superstar talent but is versatile and deep. Marques Colston doesn't possess prototypical speed but has excellent hands and body control. Few players make more clutch catches. Lance Moore is expected to assume Devery Henderson's starting receiver spot. He's one of Brees' favorite targets in the red zone, where he uses his quickness and field vision to find seams in opposing zones and move the chains. Deep threat Joe Morgan has big-play ability but must be more consistent and reliable. Tight end Jimmy Graham is a freakishly talented athlete who uses his 6'7" frame to make big plays in the middle of the field and in the red zone.

DEFENSE Ryan's pressure 3-4 scheme will be a welcome change for the Saints defenders, who never appeared to buy into Steve Spagnuolo's complicated system. The Saints have invested a number of high draft picks on defensive players in recent years and need a few of them to enjoy breakout seasons if the team is to rejoin the NFC elite.

Up front, the search for a pass rush continues. Defensive end Cameron Jordan assumes the mantle as the top pass-rusher with Will Smith on the tail end of his career. Jordan lacks elite strength and explosiveness but is a solid technician who knows how to use his long arms to keep blockers at bay. Smith is expected to hold down the other end spot. The 32-year-old vet is smart, tough and reliable, but he's no longer a double-digit pass-rushing threat.

Instead, the Saints will look to outside linebackers Victor Butler, Junior Galette and Martez Wilson to bring the heat on opposing quarterbacks. Butler is undersized but is strong and explosive off the edge and will get first crack to start on the right side. Galette will have to make the transition to linebacker but has the burst and acceleration to be a double-digit pass-rush threat off the edge. The lanky Wilson needs to turn his flashes of ability into production.



JONATHAN VILMA, LB

Brees: AP Photo/Ric Tapia; Vilma: AP Photo/Tom DiPace; Cheer: Wesley Hitt/Getty Images

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Tough opener It's been 27 years since the Saints opened the season against their archrivals, the Atlanta Falcons. The last time they did so was 1986, and it wasn't pretty. Atlanta whipped the Saints 31–10 at the Superdome. In fact, the Saints have never beaten the Falcons in a season opener. They are 0–6 against them and have been outscored by an average score of 35–14 in those games. They are 0–5 in season openers against the Falcons at the Superdome. Rest assured, those numbers will be recited a few times by Sean Payton before Sept. 8.

Coach Dad One of the ways Payton occupied his time during his one-year suspension from the NFL in 2012 was coaching son Connor's sixth-grade football team in Dallas. And if you think Payton dialed it back, you'd be wrong. "When we'd lose a game and only score seven points, (and) I'm upset because I know there's some other defensive coordinator that's going home and celebrating with his wife," said Payton, who served as his team's offensive coordinator. "The one team we couldn't beat was this single-wing team. I talked to (Bill) Parcells about it and (Jon) Gruden. We had every defense in the sun, and we still hadn't found the football. I still can't find it."

Nice genes The Saints are loaded with players with NFL bloodlines. Rookie receiver Kenny Stills' father, Ken, played safety for the Packers and Vikings. Defensive end Cameron Jordan's father, Steve, was a tight end for the Vikings. Running back Mark Ingram's father, Mark Sr., was a wide receiver for the Giants, Dolphins, Packers and Eagles. Receiver Nick Toon's father, Al, was a star receiver for the Jets.

Favorite son New cornerback Keenan Lewis has a chance to be the first New Orleans native to start for the Saints since Ashley Ambrose in 2003. At the 2009 Senior Bowl, someone asked Lewis about playing for his hometown team, and Lewis' response proved prescient: "I definitely hope that one day I'll be able to come back and play for New Orleans. I hope they bring me home."

Pressure packed New defensive coordinator Rob Ryan believes one way to counter the spread-option offense is with the 46 defensive scheme his father made famous. "These new college offenses are going to have a lot of problems when the old pressure defenses come back," he said. "The '46' is definitely part of our plan. We have some excellent players who have done well in a pressure system. We're looking forward to bringing the pressure back to New Orleans."

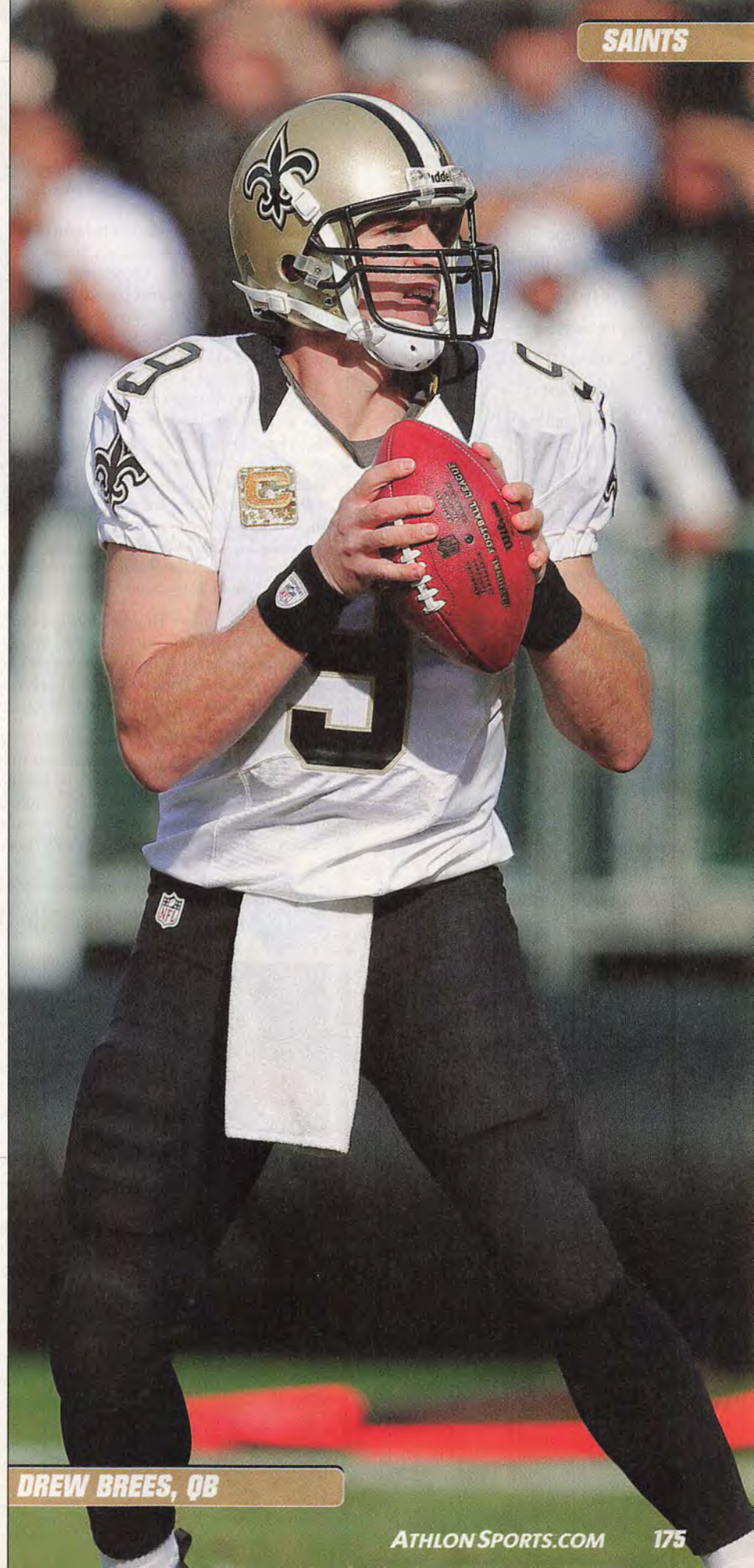
PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
LB	Victor Butler	Dallas
DE	Kenyon Coleman	Dallas
FS	Jim Leonhard	Denver
CB	Keenan Lewis	Pittsburgh
QB	Seneca Wallace	Cleveland
T	Jason Smith	N.Y. Jets
TE	Ben Watson	Cleveland

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
T	Jermon Bushrod	Chicago
QB	Chase Daniel	Kansas City
RB	Chris Ivory	N.Y. Jets
CB	Johnny Patrick	San Diego



DREW BREES, QB

2012 RESULTS (7–9)

Sept. 9	Washington	L	32–40
Sept. 16	at Carolina	L	27–35
Sept. 23	Kansas City (ot)	L	24–27
Sept. 30	at Green Bay	L	27–28
Oct. 7	San Diego	W	31–24
Oct. 21	at Tampa Bay	W	35–28
Oct. 28	at Denver	L	14–34
Nov. 5	Philadelphia	W	28–13
Nov. 11	Atlanta	W	31–27
Nov. 18	at Oakland	W	38–17
Nov. 25	San Francisco	L	21–31
Nov. 29	at Atlanta	L	13–23
Dec. 9	at N.Y. Giants	L	27–52
Dec. 16	Tampa Bay	W	41–0
Dec. 23	at Dallas (ot)	W	34–31
Dec. 30	Carolina	L	38–44

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Drew Brees	670	422	5,177	43	19
Chase Daniel	1	1	10	0	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Mark Ingram	156	602	3.9	5
Pierre Thomas	105	473	4.5	1
Darren Sproles	48	244	5.1	1
Chris Ivory	40	217	5.4	2

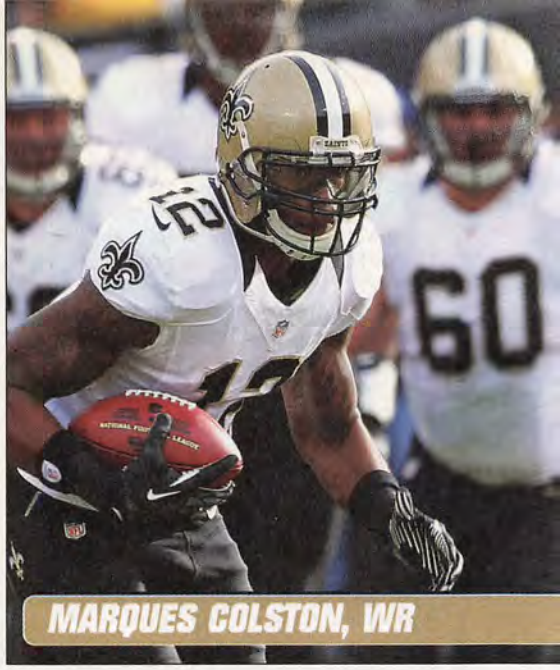
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Jimmy Graham	85	982	11.6	9
Marques Colston	83	1,154	13.9	10
Darren Sproles	75	667	8.9	7
Lance Moore	65	1,041	16	6

KICKING: Garrett Hartley 18-22 FGs, 57-57 XPs, 111 points
TACKLES: Curtis Lofton, 123; Roman Harper, 115
SACKS: Cameron Jordan, 8; Will Smith, 6
INTERCEPTIONS: Patrick Robinson, 3; Jabari Greer, 3
FORCED FUMBLES: Cameron Jordan, 3

2012 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	410.9	2	1
Rushing	98.6	25	13
Passing	312.3	1	1
Scoring	28.8	3	1
Third Down %	44.0	4	2
Punt Returns	7.6	T26	T13
Kick Returns	24.8	T11	T5

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	440.1	32	16
Rushing	147.6	32	16
Passing	292.6	31	15
Scoring	28.4	31	16
Interceptions	15	T14	10
Sacks	30.0	T25	T13
Turnover Differential	+2	T14	9



MARQUES COLSTON, WR

Defensive tackle Brodrick Bunkley was a disappointment as the interior run-stuffer and could be replaced by massive rookie John Jenkins. Inside linebackers Curtis Lofton and Jonathan Vilma form the heart of the defense. Both are smart, instinctive leaders.

Finding cornerbacks who can hold up in man-to-man coverage is critical to Ryan's pressure packages. Jabari Greer thrived in Gregg Williams' old system but struggled in 2012. He's an excellent athlete but might have lost a step. The signing of cornerback Keenan Lewis is an indictment of Patrick Robinson, a former first-round draft pick who struggled in his first full season as a starter. Lewis has the size and speed Ryan likes. Safeties Malcolm Jenkins and Roman Harper are looking to rebound after subpar 2012 campaigns. Harper's ball skills are rudimentary, and he's become a popular target in coverage for opposing quarterbacks. That's where rookie Kenny Vaccaro comes in. The athletic combo safety from Texas will see the field early in passing situations and could be the Saints' answer to defending opposing tight ends.

SPECIALISTS Punter Thomas Morstead and placekicker Garrett Hartley form a solid one-two punch. Morstead finally earned his first Pro Bowl berth. He has a powerful leg and is a master at directional punts and rugby-style backspin kicks. Hartley is solid but might have lost some range last year after his knee injury. The elusive Sproles had a terrible season on punt returns. Courtney Roby is a standout on kickoff returns and as the gunner in punt coverage.

FINAL ANALYSIS How bad was the Saints' defense in 2012? The Saints ranked third in scoring offense and second in total offense and still finished just 7–9. If the Saints can make modest strides under Ryan, a return to the playoffs is not just possible — it's likely. But that's a major question considering the club's history of struggles on that side of the ball. The Saints appear to lack the defensive firepower to challenge the NFC elite, but they'll undoubtedly be a factor in the race. And as always, they'll be one of the most entertaining teams in the league.

NFL DRAFT 2013 SAINTS IN THE DRAFT

B-

RD PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1. Kenny Vaccaro	SS	6-0	214	Texas
3. Terron Armstead	LT	6-5	306	Arkansas-Pine Bluff
3. John Jenkins	DT	6-4	346	Georgia
5. Kenny Stills	WR	6-1	194	Oklahoma
6. Rufus Johnson	LB	6-5	266	Tarleton State

Kenny Vaccaro was the top-rated safety in the draft and is versatile enough to play both strong and free positions. He'll challenge Roman Harper for the starting strong safety spot and will play immediately in nickel and dime situations. Vaccaro is the first safety taken by the Saints in the first round in club history. The club had invested three of its previous 44 first-round picks on defensive backs but none on safeties. Terron Armstead is the heir apparent to replace Jermon Bushrod at left tackle. Are the Saints willing to have a third-round pick from a small school protect Drew Brees' blindside as a rookie? They threw Jahri Evans to the wolves at left guard a few years ago and that worked out okay. John Jenkins has the size Rob Ryan wants at the nose of his 3-4 scheme. He should play right away in short-yardage and goal-line packages. Rufus Johnson will be converted from a defensive end to outside linebacker.

Colston: AP Photo/Kevin Terrell; Vaccaro: Chris Covatta

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
9 Brees, Drew	QB	6-0	209	12	Purdue	FA-SD-06	D2-SD-01
7 McCown, Luke	QB	6-3	212	9	Louisiana Tech	FA-Atl-13	D4-Cle-04
10 Wallace, Seneca	QB	5-11	205	7	Iowa State	FA-13	D4-Sea-03
RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
39 Cadet, Travaris	RB	6-1	210	1	Appalachian State	FA-12	FA-NO-12
45 Collins, Jed	FB	6-1	255	2	Washington State	FA-10	FA-Phi-08
28 Ingram, Mark	RB	5-9	215	2	Alabama	D1b-11	D1b-NO-11
35 Johnson, Austin	FB	6-2	240	1	Tennessee	FA-13	FA-NO-13
43 Sproles, Darren	RB	5-6	190	8	Kansas State	FA-SD-11	D4-SD-05
23 Thomas, Pierre	RB	5-11	215	6	Illinois	FA-07	FA-NO-07
RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
12 Colston, Marques	WR	6-4	225	7	Hofstra	D7b-06	D7b-NO-06
86 Fayson, Jarred	WR	6-0	213	1	Illinois	FA-12	FA-NO-11
17 Givens, Chris	WR	6-2	203	1	Miami (OH)	FA-12	FA-NO-12
80 Graham, Jimmy	TE	6-7	265	3	Miami	D3-10	D3-NO-10
18 Hakim, Saalim	WR	5-11	188	1	Tarleton State	FA-12	FA-Dal-12
81 Higgins, Michael	TE	6-5	242	2	Nebraska-Omaha	FA-11	FA-NO-11
16 Moore, Lance	WR	5-9	190	7	Toledo	FA-05	FA-Cle-05
13 Morgan, Joe	WR	6-1	184	2	Walsh	FA-11	FA-NO-11
87 Parker, Preston	WR	6-0	200	3	North Alabama	FA-13	FA-TB-10
15 Roby, Courtney	WR	6-0	189	7	Indiana	FA-08	D3-Ten-05
14 Tanner, Andy	WR	6-0	183	1	Midwestern State	FA-10	FA-NO-10
88 Toon, Nick	WR	6-4	218	1	Wisconsin	D4-12	D4-NO-12
82 Watson, Benjamin	TE	6-3	255	9	Georgia	FA-Cle-13	D1-NE-04
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
71 Brown, Charles	T	6-5	297	3	USC	D2-10	D2-NO-10
60 de la Puente, Brian	C	6-3	306	3	California	FA-10	FA-SF-08
73 Evans, Jahri	G	6-4	318	7	Bloomsburg	D4-06	D4-NO-06
66 Grubbs, Ben	G	6-3	310	6	Auburn	FA-Bal-12	D1-Bal-07
79 Harris, Bryce	T	6-6	300	1	Fresno State	FA-12	FA-Atl-12
65 Henry, Ricky	G	6-4	310	2	Nebraska	FA-12	FA-Chi-11
70 Jones, Marcel	T	6-7	320	1	Nebraska	D7-12	D7-NO-12
63 Lee, Ryan	OL	6-3	308	1	Furman	FA-12	FA-Pit-12
69 Olsen, Eric	G	6-3	305	2	Notre Dame	FA-11	D6-Den-10
78 Smith, Jason	T	6-5	308	4	Baylor	FA-NYJ-13	D1-StL-09
64 Strief, Zach	T	6-7	320	7	Northwestern	D7a-06	D7a-NO-06
67 Tiller, Andrew	G	6-5	326	1	Syracuse	D6-12	D6-NO-12
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
62 Broughton, Braylon	DE	6-6	272	1	TCU	FA-12	FA-NO-12
77 Bunkley, Brodrick	DT	6-2	306	7	Florida State	FA-Den-12	D1-Phi-06
99 Coleman, Kenyon	DL	6-5	293	11	UCLA	FA-Dal-13	D5-Oak-02
76 Hicks, Akiem	DL	6-5	324	1	Regina	D3-12	D3-NO-12
96 Johnson, Tom	DT	6-3	288	2	Southern Miss	FA-11	FA-Ind-06
94 Jordan, Cameron	DE	6-4	287	2	California	D1a-11	D1a-NO-11
97 Richardson, Jay	DE	6-6	280	4	Ohio State	FA-13	D5-Oak-07
98 Romeus, Greg	DE	6-5	267	1	Pittsburgh	D7a-11	D7a-NO-11
91 Smith, Will	DE	6-3	282	9	Ohio State	D1-04	D1-NO-04
75 Walker, Tyrunn	DT	6-3	294	1	Tulsa	FA-12	FA-NO-12
LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
90 Butler, Victor	LB	6-2	245	4	Oregon State	D4b-09	D4b-Dal-09
56 Chamberlain, Chris	LB	6-1	238	5	Tulsa	FA-StL-12	D7a-StL-08
93 Galette, Junior	LB	6-2	258	3	Stillman	FA-10	FA-NO-10
57 Hawthorne, David	LB	6-0	246	5	TCU	FA-Sea-12	FA-Sea-08
54 Herring, Will	LB	6-3	241	6	Auburn	FA-Sea-11	D5-Sea-07
53 Humber, Ramon	LB	5-11	232	4	North Dakota State	FA-10	FA-Ind-09
50 Lofton, Curtis	LB	6-0	241	5	Oklahoma	FA-Atl-12	D2-Atl-08
51 Vilma, Jonathan	LB	6-1	230	9	Miami	T-NYJ-08	D1-NYJ-04
95 Wilson, Martez	LB	6-4	252	2	Illinois	D3a-11	D3a-NO-11
DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
42 Abdul-Quddus, Isa	S	6-1	220	2	Fordham	FA-11	FA-NO-11
25 Bush, Rafael	S	5-11	200	2	South Carolina St.	W-Den-12	FA-Atl-10
20 Davis, A.J.	CB	6-0	183	1	Jacksonville State	FA-12	FA-NO-12
33 Greer, Jabari	CB	5-11	180	9	Tennessee	FA-Buf-09	FA-Buf-04
41 Harper, Roman	S	6-1	200	7	Alabama	D2-06	D2-NO-06
27 Jenkins, Malcolm	S	6-0	204	4	Ohio State	D1-09	D1-NO-09
36 Leonhard, Jim	S	5-8	188	8	Wisconsin	FA-Den-13	FA-Buf-05
28 Lewis, Keenan	CB	6-0	208	4	Oregon State	FA-Pit-13	D3c-Pit-09
37 Nelson, Jerico	S	5-10	216	1	Arkansas	FA-12	FA-NO-12
21 Robinson, Patrick	CB	5-11	191	3	Florida State	D1-10	D1-NO-10
30 Steed, Ryan	CB	5-11	185	1	Furman	FA-12	FA-NYJ-12
31 Turner, Dion	CB	5-11	194	1	Southern Utah	FA-13	FA-GB-12
24 White, Corey	CB	6-1	205	1	Samford	D5-12	D5-NO-12
SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
47 Drescher, Justin	LS	6-1	235	3	Colorado	FA-10	FA-Atl-10
5 Hartley, Garrett	K	5-8	195	5	Oklahoma	FA-08	FA-Den-08
6 Morstead, Thomas	P	6-4	235	4	SMU	D5-09	D5-NO-09

AP Photo/Paul Spinelli

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	12	Marques Colston
	13	Joe Morgan
WR	16	Lance Moore
	88	Nick Toon
LT	71	Charles Brown
	72	Terron Armstead (R)
LG	73	Jahri Evans
	69	Eric Olsen
C	60	Brian de la Puente
	63	Ryan Lee
RG	66	Ben Grubbs
	67	Andrew Tiller
RT	64	Zach Strief
	78	Jason Smith
TE	80	Jimmy Graham
	82	Ben Watson
QB	9	Drew Brees
	10	Seneca Wallace
FB	45	Jed Collins
	35	Austin Johnson
RB	28	Mark Ingram
	23	Pierre Thomas

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	91	Will Smith
	76	Akiem Hicks
DT	77	Brodrick Bunkley
	92	John Jenkins (R)
DE	94	Cameron Jordan
	99	Kenyon Coleman
OLB	90	Victor Butler
	95	Martez Wilson
ILB	50	Curtis Lofton
	54	Will Herring
ILB	51	Jon Vilma
	56	Chris Chamberlain
OLB	93	Junior Galette
	57	David Hawthorne
CB	33	Jabari Greer
	24	Corey White
CB	28	Keenan Lewis
	21	Patrick Robinson
SS	41	Roman Harper
	32	Kenny Vaccaro (R)
FS	27	Malcolm Jenkins
	36	Jim Leonhard

SPECIALISTS

K	5	Garrett Hartley
P	6	Thomas Morstead
KR	15	Courtney Roby
PR	43	Darren Sproles

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
Joe Morgan, WR

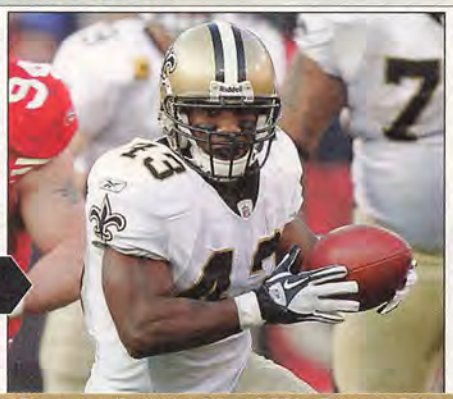
DEEP-SLEEPER
Kenny Stills, WR

OVERVALUED
Mark Ingram, RB

TOP ROOKIE
Kenny Vaccaro, S

BOUNCE-BACK
Darren Sproles, RB

TOP IDP
Curtis Lofton, LB



For more Fantasy, visit AthlonSports.com/fantasy or follow @AthlonSports on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 8	Atlanta	1:00	13-3	369.1 (8)	365.6(24)	26.2 (7)	18.7 (5)
2	Sept. 15	at Tampa Bay	4:05	7-9	363.8 (9)	379.9(29)	24.3(13)	24.6(23)
3	Sept. 22	Arizona	1:00	5-11	263.1(32)	337.8(12)	15.6(31)	22.3(17)
4	Sept. 30	Miami (Mon.)	8:40	7-9	311.5(27)	356.8(21)	18.0(27)	19.8 (7)
5	Oct. 6	at Chicago	1:00	10-6	310.6(28)	315.6 (5)	23.4(16)	17.3 (3)
6	Oct. 13	at New England	4:25	12-4	427.9 (1)	373.2(25)	34.8 (1)	20.7 (9)
7		BYE						
8	Oct. 27	Buffalo	1:00	6-10	342.9(19)	362.9(22)	21.5(21)	27.2(26)
9	Nov. 3	at N.Y. Jets	1:00	6-10	299.2(30)	323.4 (8)	17.6(28)	23.4(20)
10	Nov. 10	Dallas	8:30	8-8	374.6 (6)	355.4(19)	23.5(15)	25.0(24)
11	Nov. 17	San Francisco	4:25	11-4-1	361.8(11)	294.4 (3)	24.8(11)	17.1 (2)
12	Nov. 21	at Atlanta (Thu.)	8:25	13-3	369.1 (8)	365.6(24)	26.2 (7)	18.7 (5)
13	Dec. 2	at Seattle (Mon.)	8:40	11-5	350.6(17)	306.2 (4)	25.8 (9)	15.3 (1)
14	Dec. 8	Carolina	1:00	7-9	360.7(12)	333.1(10)	22.3(18)	22.7(18)
15	Dec. 15	at St. Louis	1:00	7-8-1	329.0(23)	342.6(14)	18.7(25)	21.8(14)
16	Dec. 22	at Carolina	1:00	7-9	360.7(12)	333.1(10)	22.3(T8)	22.7(18)
17	Dec. 29	Tampa Bay	1:00	7-9	363.8 (9)	379.9(29)	24.3(13)	24.6(23)

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

NFC SOUTH FORECAST 3

See more cheerleaders by visiting AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER/PRESIDENT: Malcolm Glazer
GENERAL MANAGER: Mark Dominik
DIRECTOR OF PLAYER PERSONNEL: Dennis Hickey
STADIUM: Raymond James Stadium (65,908)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.neworleanssaints.com
TICKETS: 813-879-2827
TRAINING CAMP: One Buccaneer Place (Tampa, Fla.)

Paradise lost would be the way to describe the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in their first year under coach Greg Schiano. The resort atmosphere disappeared, replaced by more rules and regimentation than a boot camp.

"We had one big thing we had to do. We had to establish a culture in the building," Schiano says. "Sometimes, you have to go overboard one way or another to get that culture established. But I think at this point our football team understands who I am and how our football program is going to be run. I think that happened as the season went on."

A 6–4 start collapsed into a 1–5 finish, mostly because of a wildly inconsistent defense that was first against the run and worst against the pass.

GM Mark Dominik spent the offseason retooling the secondary by signing 49ers free agent safety Dashon Goldson, swinging a blockbuster trade for Jets cornerback Darrelle Revis and drafting Thorpe Award winner Johnthan Banks in the second round. Revis Island may have relocated to Tampa Bay, but it's still going to be a very inhospitable place.

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Greg Schiano
RECORD WITH TEAM: 7-9
CAREER RECORD: 7-9
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Mike Sullivan
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Bill Sheridan

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

JOSH FREEMAN, QB

OFFENSE Josh Freeman set single-season club records for passing yardage (4,065) and touchdown passes (27) last year. But 10 of his 17 interceptions came in three games, leaving the Bucs still to wonder whether to make a long-term commitment to their enigmatic quarterback, who enters the final year of his contract.

Freeman will benefit from one of the best guard tandems in the NFL. Davin Joseph returns from a season-ending knee injury he suffered in 2012, and Carl Nicks has recovered from a foot injury that limited him to seven games.

But you can bet the offense will run through Doug Martin, who ranked second among rookies with 1,454 rushing yards and 11 touchdowns and caught 49 passes for 472 yards and a score. Receivers Vincent Jackson and Mike Williams are terrific big-play targets for Freeman, but the Bucs could use a better tight end than Luke Stocker and don't have a slot receiver.

Tampa Bay traded running back LeGarrette Blount to New England and will go with free agent Brian Leonard, who played for Schiano at Rutgers, and Miami rookie Mike James to round out the backfield.

Freeman should thrive in the second year of the system under offensive coordinator Mike Sullivan. The Bucs will do more to move the pocket and change his launch sites, because he can be very accurate on the move. He also has a new quarterbacks coach in John McNulty, who had the same position with the Arizona Cardinals and coached with Schiano at Rutgers.

But Schiano still is hedging his bets a little with Freeman long-term. Perhaps that's why NC State quarterback Mike Glennon is here.

"The reality is this is a performance-based game … to say you're married (to a player), well, nobody is married to anyone in this game," Schiano says of Freeman. "They're not married to me. You've got to win or I'm not going to be the coach."

DEFENSE It's extremely unusual for a defense to play in polar-opposite ways against the run and the pass. Statistically, Tampa Bay had the best run defense in the league in 2012. Perhaps that's because opponents preferred to travel by air. The Bucs fell just 38 yards shy of setting the NFL record for the most passing yards allowed.

With so much scorched earth in the secondary, the Bucs knew they needed an overhaul. Cornerback Aqib Talib, who was suspended for four games last year for illegal use of the stimulant Adderall, was traded at midseason to the New England Patriots. Eric Wright, who lost four games for the same reason, was forced to take a one-year, restructured contract.

Dominik began by signing Goldson to a five-year, $41.25-million deal. A few weeks later, he persuaded the Jets to part with Revis for the 13th overall pick and a conditional fourth-rounder in 2014. Revis still is recovering from the torn ACL he suffered in Week 3 last year but is expected to be full go by training camp. If he is 90 percent as good as the old Revis, it could be scary for the NFC South. The Bucs finally will have a player to match up with the Falcons' Julio Jones or the Saints' Marques Colston.

The Bucs will benefit from the return of right defensive end Adrian Clayborn, who was lost for the season because of a knee injury after only a few games. Da'Quan Bowers, who battled back from a torn Achilles to play 10 games a year ago, should be a powerful bookend. Rookies William Gholston and Steven Means fortify the pass rush.

Freeman, Martin: Peter Brouillet; Cheer: J. Meric/Getty Images

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Kinder, gentler Bucs coach Greg Schiano says he will relax a few rules now that his team has a better feel for what he wants. But don't think he's going soft. So what will be different in 2013? "Oh, just some mandatory things I don't think grown men need," Schiano says. "Take mandatory meals. If a guy is meeting his weight — we have goal weights a guy has to meet each week — I don't think they need any of our staff making sure they check in for breakfast and for lunch. They're grown men. They're professional athletes. But again, we had to establish a culture of accountability. But now they understand. And if your weight isn't where it's supposed to be, you will get checked in."

Gang of 24 Tampa Bay has 24 coaches on their staff, one of the largest in the NFL. That's because Schiano was able to get some assistants he targeted the first time around. Former Arizona Cardinals assistant John McNulty, who was with Schiano at Rutgers, will be quarterbacks coach. Schiano also hired Rutgers assistant Robb Smith to coach linebackers and promoted linebackers coach Bob Fraser to assistant defensive coordinator under Bill Sheridan. New hires include cornerbacks coach Tony Oden, receivers coach Jason Garrett and special teams coordinator Dave Wannstedt.

Transformation It may take another season for Josh Freeman to resemble one of the NFL's elite quarterbacks. But he's a look-a-like for the King of Pop. In the *ESPN The Magazine* music issue, the 25-year-old Freeman was transformed into Michael Jackson, posing for uncanny reproductions of the "Thriller" and "Off the Wall" album covers. Freeman was born six years after "Thriller" debuted in 1982, but he says he always has admired the King of Pop's music. "I've always been a huge fan of Michael Jackson," Freeman says. "He's an icon. The way that he took so many different styles of music and dance. He almost created his own genre."

Losing ledger Mark Dominik is aware of the Bucs' record since he took over as general manager in 2009: 24–40. There are some other key figures worth noting: two head coaches, six coordinators and no playoff appearances. "My record is what it is," Dominik says. "But I think our situation, in terms of where we started and where we're going, is completely different than when I took over. I'll like our team when we walk onto the field this year."

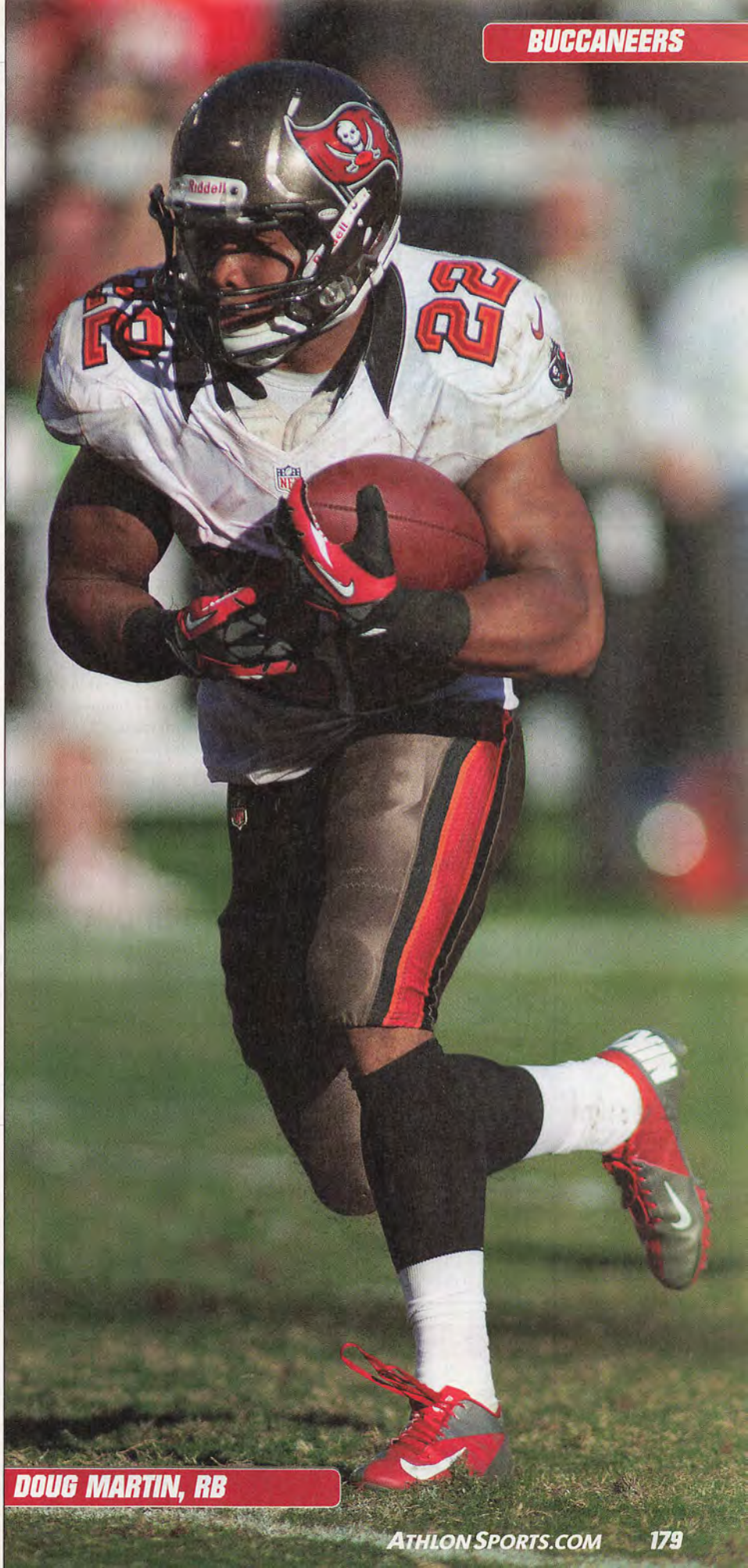
PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
LB	Jonathan Casillas	New Orleans
TE	Tom Crabtree	Green Bay
S	Dashon Goldson	San Francisco
DT	Derek Landri	Philadelphia
WR	Kevin Ogletree	Dallas
CB	Darrelle Revis	N.Y. Jets
WR	Steve Smith	St. Louis

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
CB	Ronde Barber	Retired
DE	Michael Bennett	Seattle
RB	LeGarrette Blount	New England
TE	Dallas Clark	Free Agent
DT	Roy Miller	Jacksonville



DOUG MARTIN, RB

2012 RESULTS (7–9)

Sept. 9	Carolina	W	16–10
Sept. 16	at N.Y. Giants	L	34–41
Sept. 23	at Dallas	L	10–16
Sept. 30	Washington	L	22–24
Oct. 14	Kansas City	W	38–10
Oct. 21	New Orleans	L	28–35
Oct. 25	at Minnesota	W	36–17
Nov. 4	at Oakland	W	42–32
Nov. 11	San Diego	W	34–24
Nov. 18	at Carolina (ot)	W	27–21
Nov. 25	Atlanta	L	23–24
Dec. 2	at Denver	L	23–31
Dec. 9	Philadelphia	L	21–23
Dec. 16	at New Orleans	L	0–41
Dec. 23	St. Louis	L	13–28
Dec. 30	at Atlanta	W	22–17

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Josh Freeman	558	306	4,065	27	17
Dan Orlovsky	7	4	51	0	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Doug Martin	319	1,454	4.6	11
LeGarrette Blount	41	151	3.7	2
Josh Freeman	39	139	3.6	0

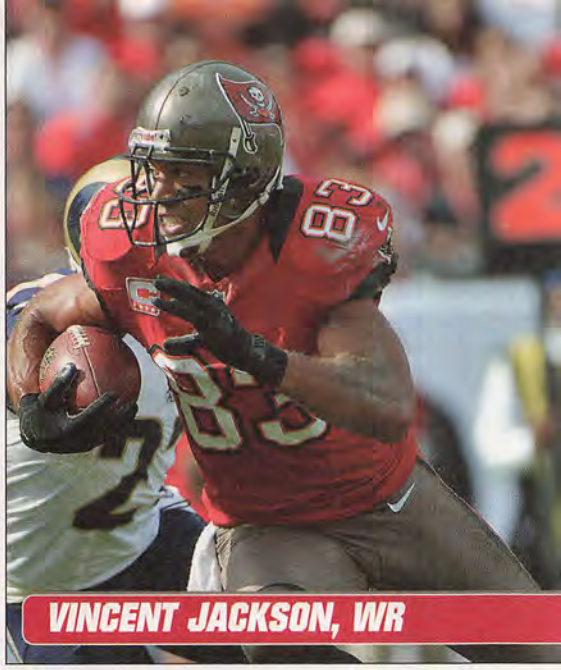
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Vincent Jackson	72	1,384	19.2	8
Mike Williams	63	996	15.8	9
Doug Martin	49	472	9.6	1
Dallas Clark	47	435	9.3	4
Tiquan Underwood	28	425	15.2	2

KICKING: Connor Barth, 28-33 FGs, 39-39 XPs, 123 points
TACKLES: Lavonte David, 139; Mason Foster, 105
SACKS: Michael Bennett 9; Gerald McCoy, 5
INTERCEPTIONS: Ronde Barber, 4; Leonard Johnson, 3
FORCED FUMBLES: Michael Bennett, 3

2012 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	363.8	9	6
Rushing	114.8	15	9
Passing	248.9	10	6
Scoring	24.3	13	8
Third Down %	35.8	23	12
Punt Returns	9.0	T19	T7
Kick Returns	20.3	30	14

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	379.9	29	14
Rushing	82.5	1	1
Passing	297.4	32	16
Scoring	24.6	23	12
Interceptions	18	T8	T6
Sacks	27.0	T29	16
Turnover Differential	+3	T12	8



VINCENT JACKSON, WR

But the rush is anchored by man in the middle Gerald McCoy, the No. 3 overall choice in 2010. McCoy finally put together a full season, finishing with five sacks, and was named to his first Pro Bowl team.

Tampa Bay lost starting nose tackle Roy Miller to Jacksonville and its leading sackmaster Michael Bennett to Seattle. But the Bucs seem confident in veterans such as Derek Landri and Daniel Te'o-Nesheim as well as Illinois nose tackle Akeem Spence, a fourth-round pick.

The linebackers are solid with Mason Foster and Lavonte David, who led the team in tackles as a rookie. The Bucs have to replace Quincy Black at strong-side linebacker. He was released after suffering nerve damage following a hit on San Diego running back Ryan Mathews.

Playing in a division with Drew Brees, Matt Ryan and Cam Newton means having to stop big plays in the passing game. The Bucs also face Tom Brady this year. But the first game of the season will be at MetLife Stadium against the Jets. What better place for Revis to make a statement that he is back?

SPECIALISTS The Bucs have a pretty good thing going in the kicking game. Connor Barth has a strong led and is accurate, hitting on 28-of-33 field goal attempts. Six were good from over 50 yards. Punter Michael Koenen, who also handles all the kickoff duties, needs to pick it up after only netting 37.4 yards in 2012.

Long-snapper Andrew Economos re-signed, keeping the Bucs' battery intact. What the team could use is some return yardage. Cowboys free agent Kevin Ogletree has a chance to bring back punts and kickoffs this year.

FINAL ANALYSIS If Revis is Revis again once his knee heels, and he plays the entire season, the Bucs have the main ingredient for an antidote to the Falcons' and Saints' passing games. Freeman, as usual, will be the key. Avoid two of the three meltdown games, and the Bucs could sneak into the postseason after a five-year hiatus.

BUCS IN THE DRAFT

B-

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
2.	Johnthan Banks	CB	6-2	185	Mississippi State
3.	Mike Glennon	QB	6-6	220	NC State
4.	Akeem Spence	DT	6-1	307	Illinois
4.	William Gholston	DE	6-7	278	Michigan State
5.	Steven Means	DE	6-4	260	Buffalo
6.	Mike James	RB	5-10	222	Miami

Tampa Bay had two real areas of concern: the secondary and the defensive line. Certainly, they work hand in hand. Johnthan Banks is a game-changer who can match up well with the big, physical receivers of the NFC South. At the very least, he should be the Bucs' nickel corner. Tampa Bay had to find replacements for defensive tackle Roy Miller and defensive end Michael Bennett, who both left via free agency. Akeem Spence should emerge as the starter at nose tackle next to Gerald McCoy. Look for William Gholston to take over the nickel pass rush role since he is capable of playing on either side of the ball. The wild card in the draft was Mike Glennon. The former Virginia Player of the Year was heavily recruited by Greg Schiano and his staff out of high school. He has the strongest arm among rookie quarterbacks and fits the Bucs' system in case something happens Josh Freeman.

Jackson: AP Photo/G. Newman Lowrance; Banks: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

	QUARTERBACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
5	Freeman, Josh	QB	6-6	240	4	Kansas State	D1-09	D1-TB-09
6	Orlovsky, Dan	QB	6-5	230	8	Connecticut	FA-Ind-12	D5-Det-05
2	Weber, Adam	QB	6-3	210	1	Minnesota	FA-12	FA-Den-11

	RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
	Demps, Jeff	RB	5-7	191	1	Florida	T-NE-13	FA-NE-12
30	Leonard, Brian	RB	6-1	225	6	Rutgers	FA-Cin-13	D2-StL-07
41	Lorig, Erik	FB	6-4	250	3	Stanford	D7c-10	D7c-TB-10
22	Martin, Doug	RB	5-9	215	1	Boise State	D1b-12	D1b-TB-12
34	Smith, Michael	RB	5-9	205	1	Utah State	D7a-12	D7a-TB-12

	RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
82	Byham, Nate	TE/FB	6-4	264	3	Pittsburgh	FA-12	D6-SF-10
84	Crabtree, Tom	TE	6-4	245	3	Miami (OH)	FA-GB-13	FA-KC-09
83	Jackson, Vincent	WR	6-5	230	8	Northern Colorado	FA-SD-12	D2-SD-05
86	Noble, Danny	TE	6-5	248	1	Toledo	FA-12	FA-TB-12
85	Ogletree, Kevin	WR	6-1	198	4	Virginia	FA-Dal-13	FA-Dal-09
80	Owusu, Chris	WR	6-2	200	1	Stanford	FA-12	FA-SF-12
17	Page, Eric	WR	5-10	180	1	Toledo	FA-13	FA-Den-12
12	Smith, Steve	WR	5-11	195	6	USC	FA-StL-13	D2-NYG-07
88	Stocker, Luke	TE	6-5	253	2	Tennessee	D4-11	D4-TB-11
11	Underwood, Tiquan	WR	6-1	183	4	Rutgers	FA-NE-12	FA-Jac-09
19	Williams, Mike	WR	6-2	212	3	Syracuse	D4-10	D4-TB-10

	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
73	Allen, Roger	G	6-3	325	3	Missouri Western	FA-12	FA-StL-09
69	Dotson, Demar	T	6-9	315	4	Southern Miss	FA-09	FA-TB-09
75	Joseph, Davin	G	6-3	313	7	Oklahoma	D1-06	D1-TB-06
62	Larsen, Ted	C/G	6-2	305	3	NC State	W-NE-10	D6-NE-10
79	Meredith, Jamon	G/T	6-5	312	4	South Carolina	FA-Pit-12	D5-GB-09
77	Nicks, Carl	G	6-5	349	5	Nebraska	FA-NO-12	D5b-NO-08
70	Penn, Donald	T	6-5	340	7	Utah State	FA-06	FA-Min-06
60	Remmers, Mike	T	6-5	303	1	Oregon State	FA-12	FA-Den-12
74	Wallace, Cody	C/G	6-4	300	3	Texas A&M	W-Hou-12	D4-SF-08
72	Wynn, Desmond	G/T	6-6	303	1	Rutgers	FA-12	FA-TB-12
76	Zuttah, Jeremy	C	6-4	308	5	Rutgers	D3-08	D3-TB-08

	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
91	Bowers, Da'Quan	DE	6-4	288	2	Clemson	D2-11	D2-TB-11
94	Clayborn, Adrian	DE	6-3	280	2	Iowa	D1-11	D1-TB-11
95	Gibson, Gary	DT	6-3	312	6	Rutgers	FA-StL-12	FA-Bal-05
97	Johnson, George	DE	6-4	265	2	Rutgers	FA-10	FA-TB-10
90	Landri, Derek	DT	6-2	290	6	Notre Dame	FA-Phi-13	D5-Jac-07
78	Levingston, Lazarius	DL	6-4	292	1	LSU	FA-12	D7-Sea-11
93	McCoy, Gerald	DT	6-4	300	3	Oklahoma	D1-10	D1-TB-10
98	Morgan, Aaron	DE	6-4	250	3	UL Monroe	FA-12	FA-Jac-10
71	Selvie, George	DE	6-4	270	3	South Florida	FA-Jac-13	D7-StL-10
50	Te'o-Nesheim, Daniel	DE	6-3	263	3	Washington	FA-11	D3-Phi-10
92	White, Markus	DE	6-4	264	2	Florida State	FA-12	D7-Was-11

	LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
52	Casillas, Jonathan	LB	6-1	227	4	Wisconsin	FA-NO-13	FA-NO-09
51	Cutrera, Jacob	LB	6-3	238	3	LSU	FA-11	FA-Jac-10
54	David, Lavonte	LB	6-1	233	1	Nebraska	D2-12	D2-TB-12
59	Foster, Mason	LB	6-1	241	2	Washington	D3-11	D3-TB-11
53	Goode, Najee	LB	6-0	244	1	West Virginia	D5-12	D5-TB-12
57	Hayward, Adam	LB	6-1	240	6	Portland State	D6-07	D6-TB-07
56	Watson, Dekoda	LB	6-2	240	3	Florida State	D7b-10	D7b-TB-10

	DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
23	Barron, Mark	S	6-2	213	1	Alabama	D1a-12	D1a-TB-12
43	Black, Ahmad	S	5-9	184	1	Florida	D5-11	D5-TB-11
26	Gaitor, Anthony	CB	5-10	182	2	FIU	D7a-11	D7a-TB-11
38	Goldson, Dashon	S	6-2	200	6	Washington	FA-SF-13	D4b-SF-07
36	Gorrer, Danny	CB	6-0	180	4	Texas A&M	FA-12	FA-NO-09
35	Grimm, Cody	S	5-11	200	3	Virginia Tech	D7a-10	D7a-TB-10
29	Johnson, Leonard	CB	5-10	202	1	Iowa State	FA-12	FA-TB-12
31	Lewis, Myron	CB	6-2	203	3	Vanderbilt	D3-10	D3-TB-10
24	Revis, Darrelle	CB	5-11	198	6	Pittsburgh	T-NYJ-13	D1-NYJ-07
37	Tandy, Keith	DB	5-10	205	1	West Virginia	D6-12	D6-TB-12
21	Wright, Eric	CB	5-10	200	6	UNLV	FA-Det-12	D2-Cle-07

	SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
10	Barth, Connor	K	5-11	200	5	North Carolina	FA-09	FA-KC-08
48	Economos, Andrew	LS	6-1	250	7	Georgia Tech	FA-06	FA-Jac-05
8	Henry, Chas	P	6-3	219	2	Florida	FA-13	FA-Phi-11
9	Koenen, Michael	P	5-11	198	8	Western Wash.	FA-Atl-11	FA-Atl-05

AP Photo/G. Newman Lowrance

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	83	Vincent Jackson
	12	Steve Smith
WR	19	Mike Williams
	85	Kevin Ogletree
LT	70	Donald Penn
	60	Mike Remmers
LG	77	Carl Nicks
	62	Ted Larsen
C	76	Jeremy Zuttah
	62	Ted Larsen
RG	75	Davin Joseph
	79	Jamon Meredith
RT	69	Demar Dotson
	79	Jamon Meredith
TE	88	Luke Stocker
	84	Tom Crabtree
QB	5	Josh Freeman
	6	Dan Orlovsky
FB	41	Erik Lorig
	82	Nate Byham
RB	22	Doug Martin
	30	Brian Leonard

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	94	Adrian Clayborn
	92	William Gholston (R)
DT	93	Gerald McCoy
	95	Gary Gibson
DT	97	Akeem Spence (R)
	90	Derek Landri
DE	91	Da'Quan Bowers
	71	George Selvie
SLB	52	Jonathan Casillas
	56	Dekoda Watson
MLB	59	Mason Foster
	57	Adam Hayward
WLB	54	Lavonte David
	53	Najee Goode
CB	24	Darrelle Revis
	36	Danny Gorrer
CB	21	Eric Wright
	27	Johnthan Banks (R)
SS	23	Mark Barron
	35	Cody Grimm
FS	38	Dashon Goldson
	43	Ahmad Black

SPECIALISTS

K	10	Connor Barth
P	9	Michael Koenen
KR	85	Kevin Ogletree
PR	85	Kevin Ogletree

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
Luke Stocker, TE

DEEP-SLEEPER
Da'Quan Bowers, DE

OVERVALUED
Darrelle Revis, CB

TOP ROOKIE
Mike James, RB

BOUNCE-BACK
Adrian Clayborn, DE

TOP IDP
Lavonte David, LB

For more Fantasy, visit **AthlonSports.com/fantasy** or follow **@AthlonSports** on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 8	at N.Y. Jets	1:00	6-10	299.2 (30)	323.4 (8)	17.6 (28)	23.4 (20)
2	Sept. 15	New Orleans	4:05	7-9	410.9 (2)	440.1 (32)	28.8 (3)	28.4 (31)
3	Sept. 22	at New England	1:00	12-4	427.9 (1)	373.2 (25)	34.8 (1)	20.7 (9)
4	Sept. 29	Arizona	1:00	5-11	263.1 (32)	337.8 (12)	15.6 (31)	22.3 (17)
5		BYE						
6	Oct. 13	Philadelphia	1:00	4-12	354.1 (15)	343.2 (15)	17.5 (29)	27.8 (29)
7	Oct. 20	at Atlanta	1:00	13-3	369.1 (8)	365.6 (24)	26.2 (7)	18.7 (5)
8	Oct. 24	Carolina (Thu.)	8:25	7-9	360.7 (12)	333.1 (10)	22.3 (18)	22.7 (18)
9	Nov. 3	at Seattle	4:05	11-5	350.6 (17)	306.2 (4)	25.8 (9)	15.3 (1)
10	Nov. 11	Miami (Mon.)	8:40	7-9	311.5 (27)	356.8 (21)	18.0 (27)	19.8 (7)
11	Nov. 17	Atlanta	1:00	13-3	369.1 (8)	365.6 (24)	26.2 (7)	18.7 (5)
12	Nov. 24	at Detroit	1:00	4-12	408.8 (3)	341.1 (13)	23.2 (17)	27.3 (27)
13	Dec. 1	at Carolina	1:00	7-9	360.7 (12)	333.1 (10)	22.3 (18)	22.7 (18)
14	Dec. 8	Buffalo	1:00	6-10	342.9 (19)	362.9 (22)	21.5 (21)	27.2 (26)
15	Dec. 15	San Francisco	1:00	11-4-1	361.8 (11)	294.4 (3)	24.8 (11)	17.1 (2)
16	Dec. 22	at St. Louis	1:00	7-8-1	329.0 (23)	342.6 (14)	18.7 (25)	21.8 (14)
17	Dec. 29	at New Orleans	1:00	7-9	410.9 (2)	440.1 (32)	28.8 (3)	28.4 (31)

ARIZONA CARDINALS

NFC WEST FORECAST 4

See more cheerleaders by visiting AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER: William Bidwell
PRESIDENT: Michael Bidwell
GENERAL MANAGER: Steve Keim
STADIUM: Univ. of Phoenix Stadium (63,400)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.azcardinals.com
TICKETS: 480-784-4444
TRAINING CAMP: University of Phoenix Stadium (Glendale, Ariz.)

To say the Cardinals are starting over this season isn't so much obvious as it is a vast understatement. They have a new general manager in Steve Keim and a new coach in Bruce Arians. Of the 88 players on the roster after the draft, 46 are new, including 21 veterans. That's what happens when a team loses nine straight games after a 4–0 start, finishes 5–11, its third straight non-winning season, and goes through quarterbacks like most people go through socks. The instability at the position is what cost Ken Whisenhunt his job, and Arians and Keim quickly tried to remedy the mess by acquiring Carson Palmer. Make no mistake, though: Palmer is a transitional quarterback, and this is a transitional season. The Cardinals just want to establish a foothold in Arians' first year and then hope they find their quarterback of the future in the 2014 draft.

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Bruce Arians
RECORD WITH TEAM: 0-0
CAREER RECORD: 0-0
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Harold Goodwin
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Todd Bowles

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

Playoffs NFC Champion

DARNELL DOCKETT, DT

OFFENSE Let's start with this truth: The Cardinals can't be much worse than they were in 2012, when they ranked dead last in total offense and rushing yards, and 28th in passing. There's little question Palmer will be a significant upgrade over the quartet of quarterbacks — John Skelton, Kevin Kolb, Ryan Lindley, Brian Hoyer — who took snaps last year. Palmer still has a strong arm and can zing the ball downfield, attributes that are essential to both Arians — who likes to go deep — and wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald, who was probably singing a chorus of "Hallelujah" when the Cardinals traded for Palmer. Palmer's downside: He too often throws it to guys in the wrong uniform. He's had 50 interceptions the last three seasons. Given Arians' fondness for taking chances, Palmer's interception rate probably isn't going to drop.

Also, Palmer isn't the most mobile of quarterbacks, which makes the development of the offensive line vital. The tackle position was a nightmare last season, but the line should be stabilized somewhat by the return of left tackle Levi Brown, who missed all of 2012 with a torn pectoral muscle. Also, the interior of the line was upgraded with the first-round selection of guard Jonathan Cooper, who will start from Day 1.

The improvement of the offensive line is critical in not only keeping Palmer healthy but also establishing some consistency in the running game. Newly acquired Rashard Mendenhall rushed for more than 1,000 yards as recently as 2010, but both he and 2011 second-round pick Ryan Williams haven't been able to stay off the disabled list. Mendenhall had just 51 carries last season, and Williams has only 58 rushes in his NFL career. Mendenhall likely will get first crack at the starting job, but watch out for Williams. He has the lateral quickness and ability to make defenders miss. If he can stay healthy, he could have a breakout season.

The passing game should be more effective if for no other reason than Palmer will be able to get the ball to Fitzgerald, who should reclaim his stature as one of the NFL's best receivers. Second-year pro Michael Floyd also could have a big year; he came on in the second half of 2012. The Cardinals are a bit thin at receiver, though, and can't afford a key injury.

Arizona won't be one of the league's elite offenses this year, but it has the potential to move the ball downfield and score some points, something the Cardinals couldn't do last year.

DEFENSE The short-term memory is the Cardinals' defense collapsing down the stretch in 2012, allowing 123 points in its last four games. But the statistic is misleading; by that point, the defense was exhausted and beaten down physically and emotionally by the offense's ineptitude. A more accurate read — and predictor of how the defense will play this year — came in the first four games, when the Cardinals gave up 61 points.

Arizona is particularly strong up front. Defensive end Calais Campbell (63 tackles, 6.5 sacks) could be headed to his first Pro Bowl, and under tackle Darnell Dockett should be more effective in the 3-4 hybrid scheme expected to be used by first-year defensive coordinator Todd Bowles.

The Cardinals also have few worries at cornerback, where Patrick Peterson emerged as a shutdown corner in 2012 and the acquisition of veterans Antoine Cason and Jerraud Powers solidified the other the side of the field. In fact, Arizona has so much depth at the position, it should be able to effectively cover four-wide schemes.

The question marks are at linebacker and safety. The four-game suspension of inside linebacker Daryl Washington for violating the league's substance-abuse policy is huge. Washington is a Pro Bowl talent and arguably the team's best player. Arizona did sign Jasper Brinkley and draft LSU's Kevin Minter in the second round, but they're not Washington.

Fitzgerald, Cheer: Christian Petersen/Getty Images;Dockett: AP Photo/Paul Jasienski

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Camp conundrum The Cardinals have trained in beautiful Flagstaff since arriving in Arizona in 1988, but the team couldn't reach an agreement on a new contract with Northern Arizona University. As of mid-May, the Cardinals still hadn't picked out a new training camp home, although their hope is to stay in Glendale and split practices between University of Phoenix Stadium and a practice bubble. Another alternative was to build a bubble at their Tempe training facility. Either way, Flagstaff and its cooler summer temperatures will be missed.

Plain talker Former coach Ken Whisenhunt was guarded when talking to the media. New coach Bruce Arians has no qualms about saying what's on his mind. After drafting Jonathan Cooper, he said Cooper would not only play but also start. He anointed Carson Palmer the starting quarterback even though he also acquired Drew Stanton, who played under him in Indianapolis. Then he said Arizona's quarterback situation was as good as any in the league. If nothing else, Arians has people paying attention.

New direction The firing of general manager Rod Graves and hiring of Steve Keim represents a bit of a philosophical shift for the organization. Graves was more of a contract guy, while Keim is a former scout and talent evaluator. He was given good grades for his first draft, and there's a general feeling inside and outside the organization that the Cardinals are in better hands with Keim calling the shots.

It's a business Arians made it clear early on that he wouldn't let emotion or longtime organizational ties color his decisions. He cut safety Adrian Wilson just seven months after Wilson had agreed to take a pay cut. Wilson, who was the longest-tenured Cardinal, having played 12 seasons in Arizona, eventually will be in the team's Ring of Honor. But that didn't stop Arians from doing what he thought the team needed.

Hello again, Larry No one was more enthused about the Cardinals' offseason moves than wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald, who was basically neutered last year by an awful offensive line and the carousel at quarterback. The acquisition of Palmer and beefing up of the line should enable Fitzgerald to again post the numbers that made him one of the NFL's best receivers. The only thing that would have made Fitzgerald happier was to have Kurt Warner back.

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
CB	Javier Arenas	Kansas City
S	Yeremiah Bell	N.Y. Jets
LB	Jasper Brinkley	Minnesota
CB	Antoine Cason	San Diego
RB	Rashard Mendenhall	Pittsburgh
QB	Carson Palmer	Oakland
CB	Jerraud Powers	Indianapolis

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
CB	William Gay	Pittsburgh
QB	Kevin Kolb	Buffalo
LB	Paris Lenon	Free Agent
S	Kerry Rhodes	Free Agent
G	Adam Snyder	San Francisco
RB	Beanie Wells	Free Agent
S	Adrian Wilson	New England

LARRY FITZGERALD, WR

2012 RESULTS (5–11)

Sept. 9	Seattle	W	20–16
Sept. 16	at New England	W	20–18
Sept. 23	Philadelphia	W	27–6
Sept. 30	Miami (ot)	W	24–21
Oct. 4	at St. Louis	L	3–17
Oct. 14	Buffalo (ot)	L	16–19
Oct. 21	at Minnesota	L	14–21
Oct. 29	San Francisco	L	3–24
Nov. 4	at Green Bay	L	17–31
Nov. 18	at Atlanta	L	19–23
Nov. 25	St. Louis	L	17–31
Dec. 2	at N.Y. Jets	L	6–7
Dec. 9	at Seattle	L	0–58
Dec. 16	Detroit	W	38–10
Dec. 23	Chicago	L	13–28
Dec. 30	at San Francisco	L	13–27

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Kevin Kolb	183	109	1,169	8	3
John Skelton	201	109	1,132	2	9

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
L. Stephens-Howling	110	356	3.2	4
Beanie Wells	88	234	2.7	5
William Powell	60	217	3.6	0
Ryan Williams	58	164	2.8	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Larry Fitzgerald	71	798	11.2	4
Andre Roberts	64	759	11.9	5
Michael Floyd	45	562	12.5	2
Rob Housler	45	417	9.3	0

KICKING: Jay Feely, 25-28 FGs, 25-25 XPs, 100 points
TACKLES: Daryl Washington, 134; Paris Lenon, 103
SACKS: Daryl Washington, 9; Calais Campbell, 6.5
INTERCEPTIONS: Patrick Peterson, 7; Kerry Rhodes, 4
FORCED FUMBLES: William Gay, 3

2012 STATS

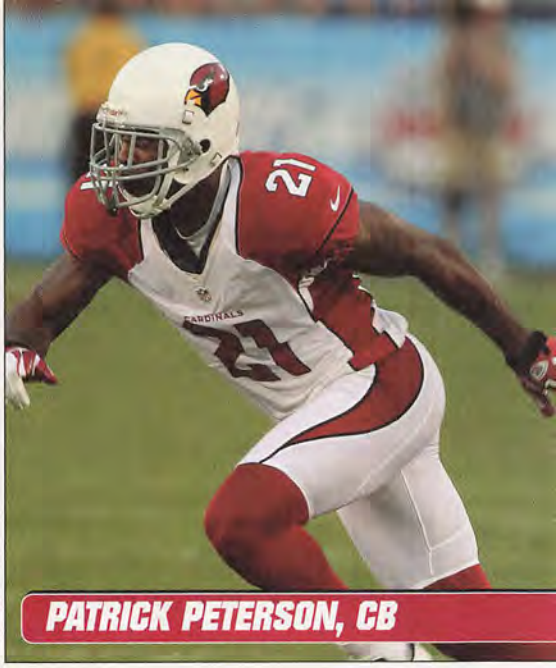
TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	263.1	32	16
Rushing	75.2	32	16
Passing	187.8	28	14
Scoring	15.6	31	16
Third Down %	25.2	32	16
Punt Returns	8.2	24	11
Kick Returns	23.3	17	9

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	337.8	12	6
Rushing	137.0	28	15
Passing	200.8	5	2
Scoring	22.3	17	9
Interceptions	22	2	22
Sacks	38.0	T11	T6
Turnover Differential	-1	T17	T11

Also, Arizona needs to find a pass-rush threat at linebacker; Washington had more sacks (nine) than Sam Acho and O'Brien Schofield combined (eight) last year. Given Washington's absence, the lack of an elite pass-rusher could be fatal in the first month of the season.

At safety, the Cardinals lost starters Adrian Wilson and Kerry Rhodes. While there's no question Wilson's game had slipped, he still was the defense's leader. Fifth-year pro Rashad Johnson will replace Wilson, but he's yet to prove he's an every-down player.

The Cardinals' plans at free safety are intriguing, to say the least. Rookie Tyrann Mathieu will move there from cornerback, and he has the physical skills to eventually be one of the league's best. But can he stay clean? If so, Arizona will have found a steal in the third round; if not, the team's last line of defense will be an issue all year.


PATRICK PETERSON, CB

SPECIALISTS Punter Dave Zastudil averaged 46.5 yards per kick last year and dropped 46 punts inside the 20. Placekicker Jay Feely made 25-of-28 field goals and combines his accuracy with a strong leg; he made a 61-yarder last year. Arizona could be special in the return game. Arians plans to use both Peterson — who returned four punts for touchdowns in 2011 — and Mathieu on punt returns. Mathieu also might be used on kickoffs. Both players are extremely dangerous with the ball in their hands, and by using a two-man return game on punts, teams won't be able to angle the ball away from a single returner.

FINAL ANALYSIS The San Francisco 49ers and Seattle Seahawks, the Cardinals' division rivals, might be the two best teams in the league, and both improved in the offseason. But Arizona should be able to take a step forward from last year's 5–11 record, if for no other reason than it has a capable quarterback in Palmer. Assuming he stays healthy, Palmer is probably worth at least a couple of wins by himself. The keys will be the offensive line, the secondary and the health of Mendenhall and Williams at running back. If everything goes well, the Cardinals could be around .500 in December, and that would be a victory in Arians' first season as coach.

NFL DRAFT 2013 CARDINALS IN THE DRAFT

B+

RD PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1. Jonathan Cooper	G	6-2	311	North Carolina
2. Kevin Minter	LB	5-11	246	LSU
3. Tyrann Mathieu	DB	5-9	186	LSU
4. Alex Okafor	DE	6-5	264	Texas
4. Earl Watford	G	6-3	300	James Madison
5. Stepfan Taylor	RB	5-9	214	Stanford
6. Ryan Swope	WR	6-0	205	Texas A&M
6. Andre Ellington	RB	5-9	199	Clemson
7. D.C. Jefferson	TE	6-6	255	Rutgers

Steve Keim was lauded for his first draft as general manager, and rightfully so. The Cardinals drafted both for value and need. Jonathan Cooper will step in immediately as a starter and solidify the interior line. The Cardinals believe he's a Pro Bowl talent. Linebacker Kevin Minter will play right away, particularly with the month-long suspension of Daryl Washington, and Tyrann Mathieu, if he can stay clean, has a chance to start at free safety. Arizona is thin at receiver, so Ryan Swope could fit in as a No. 4 wideout, and Alex Okafor could be used as a pass-rush specialist, something the Cardinals need. Don't be surprised if at least six picks make the team, as new coach Bruce Arians overhauls the roster.

Peterson: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Cooper: Margaret Bowles

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
14 Lindley, Ryan	QB	6-3	232	1	San Diego State	D6b-12	D6b-Ari-12
3 Palmer, Carson	QB	6-5	235	10	USC	T-Oak-13	D1-Cin-03
5 Stanton, Drew	QB	6-3	243	6	Michigan State	FA-13	D2a-Det-07

RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
28 Mendenhall, Rashard	RB	5-10	225	4	Illinois	FA-Pit-13	D1-Pit-08
33 Powell, William	RB	5-9	207	1	Kansas State	FA-11	FA-Ari-11
29 Smith, Alfonso	RB	6-1	208	3	Kentucky	FA-10	FA-Ari-10
34 Williams, Ryan	RB	5-9	207	2	Virginia Tech	D2-11	D2-Ari-11

RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
17 Byrd, LaRon	WR	6-4	220	1	Miami	FA-12	FA-Ari-12
16 Dillard, Jarett	WR	5-11	190	2	Rice	FA-13	D5-Jac-09
81 Dray, Jim	TE	6-5	255	3	Stanford	D7-10	D7-Ari-10
11 Fitzgerald, Larry	WR	6-3	218	9	Pittsburgh	D1-04	D1-Ari-04
15 Floyd, Michael	WR	6-2	220	1	Notre Dame	D1-12	D1-Ari-12
10 Gill, Robert	WR	5-10	175	1	Texas State	FA-13	FA-Ari-13
80 Gottlieb, Alex	TE	6-4	255	1	William & Mary	FA-13	FA-Det-12
84 Housler, Rob	TE	6-5	250	2	Florida Atlantic	D3-11	D3-Ari-11
87 King, Jeff	TE	6-3	260	7	Virginia Tech	FA-Car-11	D5-Car-06
12 Roberts, Andre	WR	5-11	195	3	The Citadel	D3-10	D3-Ari-10
83 Sperry, Kory	TE	6-5	265	4	Colorado State	FA-12	FA-SD-09
18 Taylor, Kerry	WR	6-0	200	1	Arizona State	FA-12	FA-GB-11

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
75 Brown, Levi	T	6-6	324	6	Penn State	D1-07	D1-Ari-07
71 Colledge, Daryn	G	6-4	308	7	Boise State	FA-GB-11	D2-GB-06
74 Fanaika, Paul	T	6-5	327	3	Arizona State	FA-13	D7-Phi-09
69 Gibson, Mike	G/C	6-4	305	5	California	FA-12	D6-Phi-08
64 Kelemete, Senio	G	6-3	300	1	Washington	D5-12	D5-Ari-12
70 Massie, Bobby	T	6-6	316	1	Ole Miss	D4-12	D4-Ari-12
76 Potter, Nate	T	6-5	295	1	Boise State	D7-12	D7-Ari-12
73 Rachal, Chilo	G	6-5	323	5	USC	FA-Chi-13	D2-SF-08
63 Sendlein, Lyle	C	6-3	308	6	Texas	FA-07	FA-Ari-07
66 Wedige, Scott	C	6-4	310	1	Northern Illinois	FA-12	FA-Ari-12

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
93 Campbell, Calais	DE	6-8	300	5	Miami	D2-08	D2-Ari-08
79 Carter, David	DT	6-5	300	2	UCLA	D6b-11	D6b-Ari-11
90 Dockett, Darnell	DT	6-4	290	9	Florida State	D3-04	D3-Ari-04
95 Lumpkin, Ricky	DT	6-4	306	1	Kentucky	FA-11	FA-Ari-11
98 Rucker, Frostee	DL	6-3	280	7	USC	FA-Cle-13	D3-Cin-06
91 Shaughnessy, Matt	DE	6-5	285	4	Wisconsin	FA-Oak-13	D3-Oak-09
96 Talley, Ronald	DE	6-3	286	2	Delaware	FA-12	FA-GB-09
92 Williams, Dan	DT	6-3	314	3	Tennessee	D1-10	D1-Ari-10

LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
94 Acho, Sam	LB	6-3	257	2	Texas	D4-11	D4-Ari-11
97 Alexander, Lorenzo	LB	6-1	244	6	California	FA-13	FA-Car-05
54 Brinkley, Jasper	LB	6-1	252	4	South Carolina	FA-Min-13	D5-Min-09
Dansby, Karlos	LB	6-4	250	9	Auburn	FA-Mia-13	D2-Ari-04
53 Fugger, Tim	LB	6-4	248	1	Vanderbilt	FA-12	D7-Ind-12
59 Nash, Zack	LB	6-4	260	1	Sacramento State	FA-12	FA-Ari-12
52 Parker, Colin	LB	6-1	223	1	Arizona State	FA-12	FA-Ari-12
50 Schofield, O'Brien	LB	6-3	242	3	Wisconsin	D4-10	D4-Ari-10
56 Walker, Reggie	LB	6-0	244	4	Kansas State	FA-09	FA-Ari-09
58 Washington, Daryl	LB	6-2	238	3	TCU	D2-10	D2-Ari-10

DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
27 Amaya, Jonathon	S	6-2	205	3	Nevada	FA-13	FA-Mia-10
35 Arenas, Javier	CB	5-9	197	3	Alabama	T-KC-13	D2b-KC-10
37 Bell, Yeremiah	S	6-0	205	10	Eastern Kentucky	FA-13	D6-Mia-03
31 Bethel, Justin	S	6-0	200	1	Presbyterian	D6a-12	D6a-Ari-12
20 Cason, Antoine	CB	6-1	195	5	Arizona	FA-SD-13	D1-SD-08
23 Fleming, Jamell	CB	5-11	206	1	Oklahoma	D3-12	D3-Ari-12
22 McCann, Bryan	CB	5-10	185	3	SMU	FA-Mia-13	FA-Dal-10
49 Johnson, Rashad	S	5-11	204	4	Alabama	D3-09	D3-Ari-09
21 Peterson, Patrick	CB	6-1	219	2	LSU	D1-11	D1-Ari-11
25 Powers, Jerraud	CB	5-10	187	4	Auburn	FA-Ind-13	D3-Ind-09
26 Taylor, Curtis	S	6-2	212	3	LSU	FA-SF-13	D7-SF-09

SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
2 Batson, Will	P	6-3	210	1	North Alabama	FA-13	FA-Ten-12
4 Feely, Jay	K	5-10	208	12	Michigan	FA-NYJ-10	FA-Atl-01
82 Leach, Mike	LS	6-2	235	13	William & Mary	FA-09	FA-Ten-00
9 Zastudil, Dave	P	6-3	220	11	Ohio	FA-11	D4-Bal-02

Wade Payne

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	11	Larry Fitzgerald
	19	Ryan Swope (R)
WR	15	Michael Floyd
	12	Andre Roberts
LT	75	Levi Brown
	76	Nate Potter
LG	71	Daryn Colledge
	78	Earl Watford (R)
C	63	Lyle Sendlein
	66	Scott Wedige
RG	61	Jonathan Cooper (R)
	69	Mike Gibson
RT	70	Bobby Massie
	74	Paul Fanaika
TE	87	Jeff King
	81	Jim Dray
TE	84	Rob Housler
	86	D.C. Jefferson (R)
QB	3	Carson Palmer
	5	Drew Stanton
RB	28	Rashard Mendenhall
	34	Ryan Williams

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	93	Calais Campbell
	91	Matt Shaughnessy
NT	92	Dan Williams
	79	David Carter
DT	90	Darnell Dockett
	98	Frostee Rucker
OLB	97	Lorenzo Alexander
	50	O'Brien Schofield
ILB	58	Daryl Washington
	51	Kevin Minter (R)
ILB	54	Jasper Brinkley
	56	Reggie Walker
OLB	94	Sam Acho
	53	Tim Fugger
CB	21	Patrick Peterson
	23	Jamell Fleming
CB	20	Antoine Cason
	25	Jerraud Powers
SS	49	Rashad Johnson
	27	Jonathon Amaya
FS	37	Yeremiah Bell
	32	Tyrann Mathieu (R)

SPECIALISTS

P	9	Dave Zastudil
K	4	Jay Feely

KR	33	William Powell
PR	21	Patrick Peterson

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
Michael Floyd, WR

DEEP-SLEEPER
Rob Housler, TE

OVERVALUED
Andre Roberts, WR

TOP ROOKIE
Andre Ellington, RB

BOUNCE-BACK
Larry Fitzgerald, WR

TOP IDP
Calais Campbell, DE

For more Fantasy, visit **AthlonSports.com/fantasy** or follow **@AthlonSports** on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 8	at St. Louis	4:25	7-8-1	329.0 (23)	342.6 (14)	18.7 (25)	21.8 (14)
2	Sept. 15	Detroit	4:05	4-12	408.8 (3)	341.1 (13)	23.2 (17)	27.3 (27)
3	Sept. 22	at New Orleans	1:00	7-9	410.9 (2)	440.1 (32)	28.8 (3)	28.4 (31)
4	Sept. 29	at Tampa Bay	1:00	7-9	363.8 (9)	379.9 (29)	24.3 (13)	24.6 (23)
5	Oct. 6	Carolina	4:05	7-9	360.7 (12)	333.1 (10)	22.3 (18)	22.7 (18)
6	Oct. 13	at San Francisco	4:25	11-4-1	361.8 (11)	294.4 (3)	24.8 (11)	17.1 (2)
7	Oct. 17	Seattle (Thu.)	8:25	11-5	350.6 (17)	306.2 (4)	25.8 (9)	15.3 (1)
8	Oct. 27	Atlanta	4:25	13-3	369.1 (8)	365.6 (24)	26.2 (7)	18.7 (5)
9		BYE						
10	Nov. 10	Houston	4:25	12-4	372.1 (7)	323.2 (7)	26.0 (8)	20.7 (T9)
11	Nov. 17	at Jacksonville	1:00	2-14	299.2 (29)	380.5 (30)	15.9 (30)	27.8 (29)
12	Nov. 24	Indianapolis	4:05	11-5	362.4 (10)	374.2 (26)	22.3 (18)	24.2 (21)
13	Dec. 1	at Philadelphia	1:00	4-12	354.1 (15)	343.2 (15)	17.5 (29)	27.8 (29)
14	Dec. 8	St. Louis	4:25	7-8-1	329.0 (23)	342.6 (14)	18.7 (25)	21.8 (14)
15	Dec. 15	at Tennessee	1:00	6-10	313.1 (26)	374.9 (27)	20.6 (23)	29.4 (32)
16	Dec. 22	at Seattle	4:05	11-5	350.6 (17)	306.2 (4)	25.8 (9)	15.3 (1)
17	Dec. 29	San Francisco	4:25	11-4-1	361.8 (11)	294.4 (3)	24.8 (11)	17.1 (2)

ST. LOUIS RAMS

See more cheerleaders by visiting AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER/CHAIRMAN: Stan Kroenke
EXECUTIVE VP OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS: Kevin Demoff
GENERAL MANAGER: Les Snead
STADIUM: Edward Jones Dome (66,965)
SURFACE: FieldTurf
WEBSITE: www.stlouisrams.com
TICKETS: 314-425-8830
TRAINING CAMP: Russell Athletic Training Center (Earth City, Mo.)

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Jeff Fisher
RECORD WITH TEAM: 7-8-1
CAREER RECORD: 149-128-1
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Brian Schottenheimer
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Tim Walton

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

Jeff Fisher made his bones in coaching with a bruising, physical defense coupled with a conservative run-oriented offense led by big back Eddie George. That was in Tennessee (and Houston). As Fisher enters his second season in St. Louis, the bruising, physical defense is still there. But this offense could be unlike anything ever seen on a Fisher team. After undergoing a dramatic offseason makeover of skill-position players, the Rams have gotten faster and potentially more explosive on offense. After finishing 25th in scoring and 23rd in total offense in 2012, the Rams may do a 180 in terms of approach this season. It may take time to see how it all shakes out, but it looks like the emphasis is on getting players in space, creating mismatches, spreading the field and picking up the tempo.

OFFENSE For the first time as an NFL player, quarterback Sam Bradford has the same offensive coordinator in Brian Schottenheimer — and the same terminology and playbook — in consecutive seasons. The apparent emphasis on more of an up-tempo passing style better suits Bradford. He did some of his best work a year ago in the hurry-up, when he was given more responsibilities at the line of scrimmage.

He's got a speedy receiver corps with the addition of tight end Jared Cook in free agency and wideouts Tavon Austin and Stedman Bailey in the draft. Four-time Pro Bowler Jake Long is the new left tackle on what already was an improved offensive line. If the Rams can find production in a backfield minus Steven Jackson, this could be Bradford's eagerly awaited breakout season. There will be growing pains, however, because so many of the running backs and wide receivers are inexperienced. But the potential exists for a dynamic offense, one that can create a lot of matchup problems. Cook, who has 4.49 speed, will line up in the slot, out wide, in the backfield, and — oh yeah — on the line. Pairing Cook with the much-improved Lance Kendricks, the Rams can mimic the Patriots with two accomplished pass-catching tight ends.

At wide receiver, the Rams have a pair of burners in Chris Givens and Austin. Brian Quick presents a big target. Not unlike Cook, Austin will line up just about anywhere. Austin Pettis can make the tough short and intermediate catches and has developed into a decent red zone presence. But it won't work as well without some semblance of a ground game. Second-year players Daryl Richardson and Isaiah Pead are smaller scatback types. The Rams traded up into the fifth round for Vanderbilt's Zac Stacy, a tough inside runner who they hope can excel in short-yardage and goal-line situations. Terrance Ganaway, who played in only three games as a rookie, will have a chance to show he can provide a big-back element.

The addition of Long gives St. Louis a veteran line — at least four-fifths of a veteran line — with former Green Bay Pro Bowler Scott Wells at center, hard-nosed Harvey Dahl at right guard and Rodger Saffold grudgingly moving to right tackle to accommodate Long. If the Rams find a left guard and the unit stays healthy, this could be one of the league's better lines.

DEFENSE The Rams flirted with being a top-10 defense for much of the 2012 season. If rookies Alec Ogletree (linebacker) and T.J. McDonald (safety) fill the only holes in the starting lineup, this unit should achieve top-10 status this time around.

It all starts with the pass rush. Robert Quinn and the underrated Chris Long are developing into one of the NFL's top tandems of pass-rushing ends. They combined for 22 sacks — a big reason the Rams tied for the league lead in sacks, an amazing achievement considering they led less than one-third of the time during games over the course of the season. They still managed to get all that pressure even though they didn't have opponents in predictable passing situations all that often.

William Hayes was a super-sub off the bench with seven sacks, backing up Long and moving inside to tackle in passing situations. As a result, the Rams didn't blitz all that often; they didn't have to because of the consistent pressure of the front four. That figures to be the case this year, particularly if second-year tackle Michael Brockers can continue to provide an inside push, a part of his game began developing late in his rookie season.

At linebacker, James Laurinaitis continues to be a rock in the middle, and he will be seeking his fifth consecutive season as the team's leading tackler. He is flanked by Ogletree and Jo-Lonn Dunbar on the outside. Dunbar was a surprise last year after leaving New Orleans in free agency. He is an active, aggressive hitter capable of making the splash play via interception, sack, forced fumble, or simply a jarring tackle. Read-option quarterbacks Colin Kaepernick of San Francisco

JANORIS JENKINS, CB

Peter Brouillet

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Kiddie corps The Rams were the youngest team in the NFL in 2012. As for this year? "We may set the record," coach Jeff Fisher says. He wasn't kidding. Immediately after the draft, 44 of the Rams' 59 players were age 25 or younger. Nine of quarterback Sam Bradford's group of running backs, wide receivers and tight ends were age 22 or 23.

Secret weapon Johnny Hekker had a successful rookie year as a punter, but he was unstoppable as a passer. Hekker went 3-of-3 throwing the football on trick plays, including a touchdown on a fake field goal — he's the Rams' holder — and two first downs on fake punts. At the end of the year he had more passing yards than Tim Tebow: 42 to 39. "Oh man, I feel bad for Tim Tebow, to be honest," Hekker said.

Match race? Any time a football player runs a sub-4.3 in the 40 it gets everybody's attention. Rookie wideout Tavon Austin was timed as fast as 4.27 seconds at the NFL Scouting Combine. Rookie cornerback Brandon McGee said he worked out consistently in the 4.2s before running in the high 4.3s at the Combine. McGee said he would be more than willing to have a match race with Austin during training camp. But Fisher quickly put the kibosh on that. "I will not let that happen, no," Fisher said.

The sandwich maker Running back Terrance Ganaway got a job making sandwiches at Jimmy John's back in Waco, Texas. (He played his college football at Baylor.) Ganaway said he wanted to be able to tell his children he once worked two jobs in order to get them through college. Minimum wage for Ganaway with the Rams last season: $390,000. Minimum wage at Jimmy John's: about $7.50 an hour.

Prime time players The Rams haven't had a winning season since 2003 and haven't made the playoffs since '04. Prior to Jeff Fisher's arrival last season, the team had been in a 15–65 free-fall. But Fisher quickly got the Rams back to respectability, and the networks have taken notice. For only the second time since 2004, the Rams have two prime time games in 2013. And for the first time since '02, the Rams have two prime time games at home. The Rams haven't played a Monday Night home game since 2006.

Sacks, by the numbers The Rams yielded 35 sacks last season, a 20-sack improvement compared to the 2011 season. The Rams didn't give up a sack in their last two games in '12, ending Bradford's streak of being sacked in 30 consecutive games. On the other side of the ball, the Rams' defense tied for the league lead (with Denver) with 52 sacks. Only the Rams' Super Bowl championship team of '99 has had more sacks (57) than the 2012 team since the franchise moved to St. Louis in 1995.

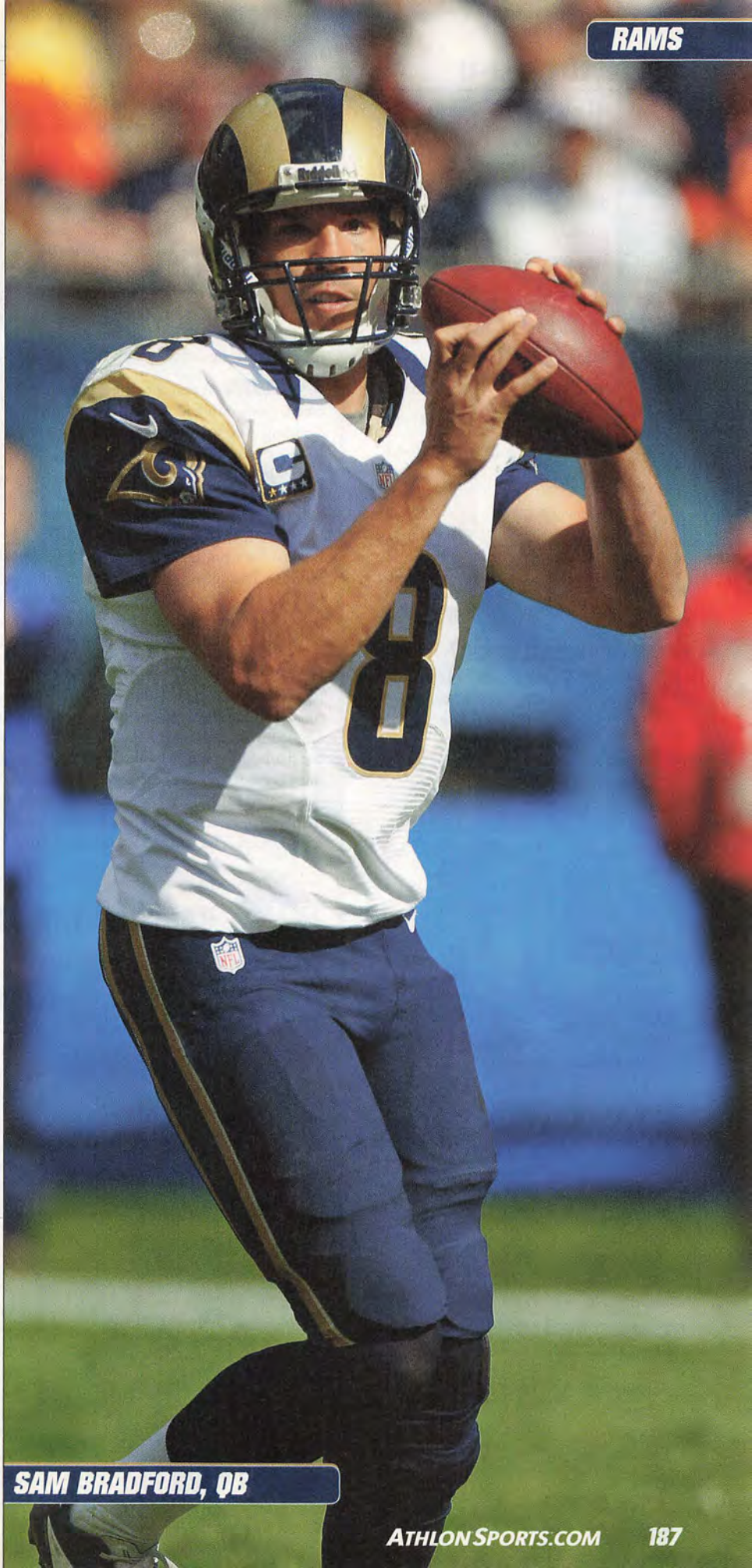
PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
TE	Jared Cook	Tennessee
T	Jake Long	Miami

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
WR	Danny Amendola	New England
S	Craig Dahl	San Francisco
CB	Bradley Fletcher	Philadelphia
RB	Steven Jackson	Atlanta
WR	Brandon Gibson	Miami
C/G	Rob Turner	Tennessee



SAM BRADFORD, QB

2012 RESULTS (7-8-1)

Sept. 9	at Detroit	L	23–27
Sept. 16	Washington	W	31–28
Sept. 23	at Chicago	L	6–23
Sept. 30	Seattle	W	19–13
Oct. 4	Arizona	W	17–3
Oct. 14	at Miami	L	14–17
Oct. 21	Green Bay	L	20–30
Oct. 28	New England	L	7–45
Nov. 11	at San Francisco (ot)	T	24–24
Nov. 18	N.Y. Jets	L	13–27
Nov. 25	at Arizona	W	31–17
Dec. 2	San Francisco (ot)	W	16–13
Dec. 9	at Buffalo	W	15–12
Dec. 16	Minnesota	L	22–36
Dec. 23	at Tampa Bay	W	28–13
Dec. 30	at Seattle	L	13–20

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Sam Bradford	551	328	3,702	21	13
Johnny Hekker	3	3	42	1	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Steven Jackson	257	1,042	4.1	4
Daryl Richardson	98	475	4.8	0
Sam Bradford	37	127	3.4	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Danny Amendola	63	666	10.6	3
Brandon Gibson	51	691	13.5	5
Chris Givens	42	698	16.6	3
Lance Kendricks	42	519	12.4	4
Steven Jackson	38	321	8.4	0

KICKING: Greg Zuerlein, 23-31 FGs, 26-26 XPs, 95 points

TACKLES: James Laurinaitis, 142; Jo-Lonn Dunbar, 115

SACKS: Chris Long, 11.5; Robert Quinn, 10.5

INTERCEPTIONS: Janoris Jenkins, 4; Cortland Finnegan, 3

FORCED FUMBLES: Quintin Mikell, 4

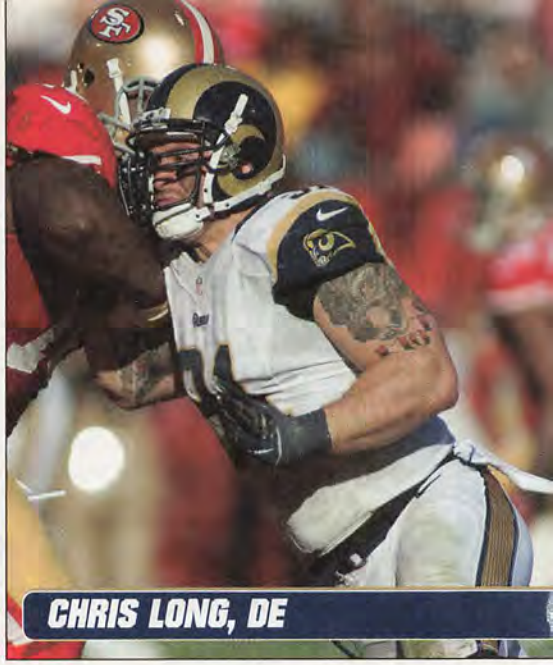
2012 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	329.0	23	14
Rushing	107.1	19	10
Passing	221.9	18	10
Scoring	18.7	25	14
Third Down %	32.1	29	15
Punt Returns	6.6	31	16
Kick Returns	21.0	T26	T11

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	342.6	14	8
Rushing	117.5	15	8
Passing	225.1	15	9
Scoring	21.8	T14	T7
Interceptions	17	T11	9
Sacks	52.0	T1	1
Turnover Differential	-1	T17	T11

and Russell Wilson of Seattle took the league by storm a year ago, and the Rams are counting on Ogletree's closing speed to help keep them in check.

The only veteran in the secondary, corner Cortland Finnegan, sets the tone with his take-no-prisoners style of play. Janoris Jenkins showed he could be a game-changer as a rookie with four defensive touchdowns, but he needs plenty of technique work. After falling out of favor following a training camp injury a year ago, Darian Stewart will hold down the starting job at strong safety.



CHRIS LONG, DE

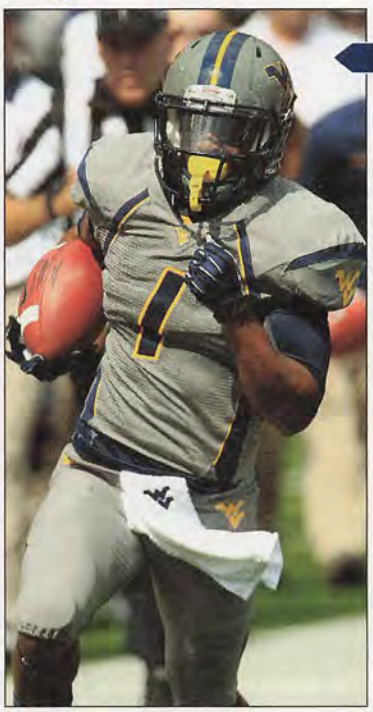
SPECIALISTS A year ago, the Rams gambled by jettisoning kicker Josh Brown and deciding not to re-sign punter Donnie Jones. Both respected veterans were replaced by rookies. One year later, it looks like the gamble will pay off. Although he tailed off later in the season, Greg "The Leg" Zuerlein was sensational for much of the 2012 season, making his first 15 field goals in the NFL and kicking seven of 50 yards or more, including an NFL rookie record 60-yarder. Johnny Hekker needs more consistency but has that rare blend of leg strength and directional skills. The issue for years in St. Louis has been the return game. Austin should help solve that, especially on kickoff returns. And don't be surprised if Jenkins gets another shot on punt returns where he was dynamic in college.

FINAL ANALYSIS There's no doubt this is a team on the rise. Fisher is a proven commodity, players love playing for him, and he has an owner and organization that gives full support — financially and otherwise. Unlike many front offices of the past, general manager Les Snead & Company actually have a plan in terms of the draft and free agency. A foundation of young talent has been established, although the team probably needs another good draft and offseason to be considered a genuine playoff contender. So 2014 may be the true breakout year, not '13.

For now, they are dealing with a radically strengthened NFC West, with Super Bowl contenders San Francisco and Seattle the teams to beat. So victories will be tough to come by and hard-earned. The best the Rams might hope for is .500.

NFL DRAFT 2013 RAMS IN THE DRAFT

B+



RD PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1. Tavon Austin	WR	5-8	174	West Virginia
1. Alec Ogletree	LB	6-2	242	Georgia
3. T.J. McDonald	S	6-2	219	USC
3. Stedman Bailey	WR	5-10	193	West Virginia
4. Barrett Jones	C/G	6-4	306	Alabama
5. Brandon McGee	CB	5-11	193	Miami (Fla.)
5. Zac Stacy	RB	5-8	216	Vanderbilt

Even if he's not an every-down player as a rookie, the Rams are expecting big things to come in small packages with Tavon Austin. Otherwise, you don't trade second- and seventh-round picks to move up eight spots to No. 8 overall in the draft. If nothing else, Austin should provide a solution to the team's kick return woes. On the other side of the ball, Alec Ogletree and T.J. McDonald will step right into the starting lineup, filling the only two holes on defense. The arrival of Ogletree brings much-needed speed and athleticism to one outside backer spot. The other four selections are depth picks, with Barrett Jones perhaps having a chance to compete for the starting job at left guard. Brandon McGee will be the fourth corner. And who knows what happens with Zac Stacy in what looks like a wide-open backfield competition.

Long: Peter Brouillet; Austin: Bruce Schwartzman

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
8 Bradford, Sam	QB	6-4	224	3	Oklahoma	D1-10	D1-StL-10
10 Clemens, Kellen	QB	6-2	220	7	Oregon	FA-12	D2-NYJ-06
9 Davis, Austin	QB	6-2	221	1	Southern Miss	FA-12	FA-StL-12
RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
42 Ganaway, Terrance	RB	6-1	240	1	Baylor	W-NYJ-12	D6-NYJ-12
24 Pead, Isaiah	RB	5-10	197	1	Cincinnati	D2c-12	D2c-StL-12
34 Reynolds, Chase	RB	6-0	200	1	Montana	FA-11	FA-Sea-11
26 Richardson, Daryl	RB	5-10	196	1	Abilene Christian	D7b-12	D7b-StL-12
RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
89 Cook, Jared	TE	6-5	248	4	South Carolina	FA-Ten-13	D3a-Ten-09
13 Givens, Chris	WR	6-0	198	1	Wake Forest	D4-12	D4-StL-12
81 Graham, Cameron	TE	6-3	244	1	Louisville	FA-12	FA-Ten-11
46 Harkey, Cory	TE	6-4	260	1	UCLA	FA-12	FA-StL-12
14 Johnson, Nick	WR	5-11	187	1	Henderson State	FA-12	FA-StL-12
88 Kendricks, Lance	TE	6-3	247	2	Wisconsin	D2-11	D2-StL-11
89 McNeill, Mike	TE	6-4	235	2	Nebraska	FA-11	FA-Ind-11
18 Pettis, Austin	WR	6-3	207	2	Boise State	D3-11	D3-StL-11
83 Quick, Brian	WR	6-3	220	1	Appalachian State	D2a-12	D2a-StL-12
84 Radway, Raymond	WR	6-3	204	2	Abilene Christian	FA-12	FA-Dal-11
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
68 Barksdale, Joe	T	6-5	329	2	LSU	W-Oak-12	D3-Oak-11
61 Barnes, Tim	C	6-4	300	1	Missouri	FA-11	FA-Bal-11
62 Dahl, Harvey	G	6-5	308	6	Nevada	FA-Atl-11	FA-Dal-05
77 Long, Jake	T	6-7	319	5	Michigan	FA-Mia-13	D1-Mia-08
60 Nsekhe, Ty	T	6-8	325	1	Texas State	W-Ind-12	FA-Ind-12
76 Saffold, Rodger	T	6-5	314	3	Indiana	D2-10	D2-StL-10
66 Smith, Shelley	G	6-4	297	3	Colorado State	W-Hou-12	D6-Hou-10
70 Washington, Brandon	G	6-2	320	1	Miami	FA-12	D6-Phi-12
73 Watkins, Rokevious	G	6-3	338	1	South Carolina	D5-12	D5-StL-12
63 Wells, Scott	C	6-2	300	9	Tennessee	FA-GB-12	D7-GB-04
65 Williams, Chris	G/T	6-6	320	5	Vanderbilt	FA-12	D1-Chi-08
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
90 Brockers, Michael	DT	6-5	322	1	LSU	D1-12	D1-StL-12
77 Brodine, Mason	DE	6-7	270	1	Nebraska-Kearney	FA-12	FA-Oak-11
71 Conrath, Matt	DT	6-7	290	1	Virginia	FA-12	FA-StL-12
93 Cudjo, Jermelle	DT	6-2	311	3	Central Oklahoma	FA-10	FA-StL-10
95 Hayes, William	DE	6-3	272	5	Winston-Salem St.	FA-Ten-12	D4a-Ten-08
98 Langford, Kendall	DT	6-6	295	5	Hampton	FA-Mia-12	D3-Mia-08
91 Long, Chris	DE	6-3	270	5	Virginia	D1-08	D1-StL-08
94 Quinn, Robert	DE	6-4	264	2	North Carolina	D1-11	D1-StL-11
92 Sims, Eugene	DE	6-6	265	3	West Texas A&M	D6b-10	D6b-StL-10
LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
57 Brown, Sammy	LB	6-2	242	1	Houston	FA-12	FA-StL-12
58 Dunbar, Jo-Lonn	LB	6-0	226	5	Boston College	FA-NO-12	FA-NO-08
56 Hull, Josh	LB	6-3	245	3	Penn State	D7c-10	D7c-StL-10
55 Laurinaitis, James	LB	6-2	250	4	Ohio State	D2-09	D2-StL-09
54 Williams, Jabara	LB	6-2	238	2	Stephen F. Austin	FA-12	D7-StL-11
DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
37 Daniels, Matt	S	6-0	211	1	Duke	FA-12	FA-StL-12
31 Finnegan, Cortland	CB	5-10	188	7	Samford	FA-Ten-12	D7a-Ten-06
21 Jenkins, Janoris	CB	5-10	193	1	North Alabama	D2b-12	D2b-StL-12
22 Johnson, Trumaine	CB	6-2	204	1	Montana	D3-12	D3-StL-12
23 McLeod, Rodney	S	5-10	183	1	Virginia	FA-12	FA-StL-12
33 Pointer, Quinton	S	5-9	186	1	UNLV	FA-12	FA-StL-12
20 Stewart, Darian	S	5-11	214	3	South Carolina	FA-10	FA-StL-10
SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
6 Hekker, Johnny	P	6-5	227	1	Oregon State	FA-12	FA-StL-12
44 McQuaide, Jake	LS	6-2	247	2	Ohio State	FA-11	FA-StL-11
4 Zuerlein, Greg	K	6-0	187	1	Missouri Western	D6-12	D6-StL-12

AP Photo/Greg Trott

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	83	Brian Quick
	18	Austin Pettis
WR	13	Chris Givens
	11	Tavon Austin (R)
SL	89	Jared Cook
	11	Tavon Austin
LT	77	Jake Long
	76	Rodger Saffold
LG	65	Chris Williams
	66	Shelley Smith
C	63	Scott Wells
		Barrett Jones (R)
RG	62	Harvey Dahl
	73	Rokevious Watkins
RT	76	Rodger Saffold
	68	Joe Barksdale
TE	88	Lance Kendricks
	84	Jared Cook
QB	8	Sam Bradford
	9	Austin Davis
RB	24	Isaiah Pead
	26	Daryl Richardson

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	91	Chris Long
	95	William Hayes
DT	90	Michael Brockers
	71	Matthew Conrath
DT	98	Kendall Langford
	93	Jermelle Cudjo
DE	94	Robert Quinn
	92	Eugene Sims
OLB	52	Alec Ogletree (R)
		Phillip Steward (R)
MLB	55	James Laurinaitis
	56	Josh Hull
OLB	58	Jo-Lonn Dunbar
	52	Jabara Williams
CB	21	Janoris Jenkins
	22	Trumaine Johnson
CB	31	Cortland Finnegan
		Brandon McGee (R)
SS	20	Darian Stewart
	37	Matthew Daniels
FS		T.J. McDonald (R)
	23	Rodney McLeod

SPECIALISTS

K	4	Greg Zuerlein
P	6	Johnny Hekker
KR	11	Tavon Austin (R)
PR	21	Janoris Jenkins

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
Sam Bradford, QB

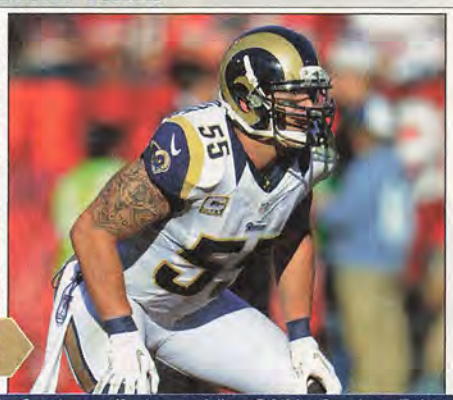
DEEP-SLEEPER
Zac Stacy, RB

OVERVALUED
Daryl Richardson, RB

TOP ROOKIE
Tavon Austin, WR

BOUNCE-BACK
Jared Cook, TE

TOP IDP
James Laurinaitis, LB



For more Fantasy, visit **AthlonSports.com/fantasy** or follow **@AthlonSports** on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 8	Arizona	4:25	5-11	263.1 (32)	337.8 (12)	15.6 (31)	22.3 (17)
2	Sept. 15	at Atlanta	1:00	13-3	369.1 (8)	365.6 (24)	26.2 (7)	18.7 (5)
3	Sept. 22	at Dallas	1:00	8-8	374.6 (6)	355.4 (19)	23.5 (15)	25.0 (24)
4	Sept. 26	San Francisco (Thu.)	8:25	11-4-1	361.8 (11)	294.4 (3)	24.8 (11)	17.1 (2)
5	Oct. 6	Jacksonville	1:00	2-14	299.2 (29)	380.5 (30)	15.9 (30)	27.8 (29)
6	Oct. 13	at Houston	1:00	12-4	372.1 (7)	323.2 (7)	26.0 (8)	20.7 (T9)
7	Oct. 20	at Carolina	1:00	7-9	360.7 (12)	333.1 (10)	22.3 (18)	22.7 (18)
8	Oct. 28	Seattle (Mon.)	8:40	11-5	350.6 (17)	306.2 (4)	25.8 (9)	15.3 (1)
9	Nov. 3	Tennessee	1:00	6-10	313.1 (26)	374.9 (27)	20.6 (23)	29.4 (32)
10	Nov. 10	at Indianapolis	1:00	11-5	362.4 (10)	374.2 (26)	22.3 (18)	24.2 (21)
11		BYE						
12	Nov. 24	Chicago	1:00	10-6	310.6 (28)	315.6 (5)	23.4 (16)	17.3 (3)
13	Dec. 1	at San Francisco	4:05	11-4-1	361.8 (11)	294.4 (3)	24.8 (11)	17.1 (2)
14	Dec. 8	at Arizona	4:25	5-11	263.1 (32)	337.8 (12)	15.6 (31)	22.3 (17)
15	Dec. 15	New Orleans	1:00	7-9	410.9 (2)	440.1 (32)	28.8 (3)	28.4 (31)
16	Dec. 22	Tampa Bay	1:00	7-9	363.8 (9)	379.9 (29)	24.3 (13)	24.6 (23)
17	Dec. 29	at Seattle	4:25	11-5	350.6 (17)	306.2 (4)	25.8 (9)	15.3 (1)

SAN FRANCISCO 49ers

NFC WEST FORECAST **1**

The 49ers made a stunning run to the NFC title game two years ago in coach Jim Harbaugh's rookie season, only to fall 20–17 in overtime to the New York Giants on a cold, rainy night at Candlestick Park. Last season the 49ers regrouped and reached the Super Bowl but lost 34–31 to Baltimore when their final drive died at the Ravens' 5-yard line after three straight Colin Kaepernick incomplete passes.

After taking two huge steps forward in their quest to win the franchise's sixth Super Bowl, the 49ers appear to have all the pieces in place to take the final step and accomplish that feat this season. But history tells us how hard it will be.

Twenty straight Super Bowl losers failed to reach the Super Bowl the following season. Only two teams in NFL history won a Super Bowl the year after losing the ultimate game. The last? Miami, 41 seasons ago. Only five other Super Bowl losers — including Buffalo three straight years — advanced that far the next season.

Of course that's just the kind of challenge Harbaugh loves. And it helps to have a team packed with Pro Bowl players.

See more cheerleaders by visiting AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

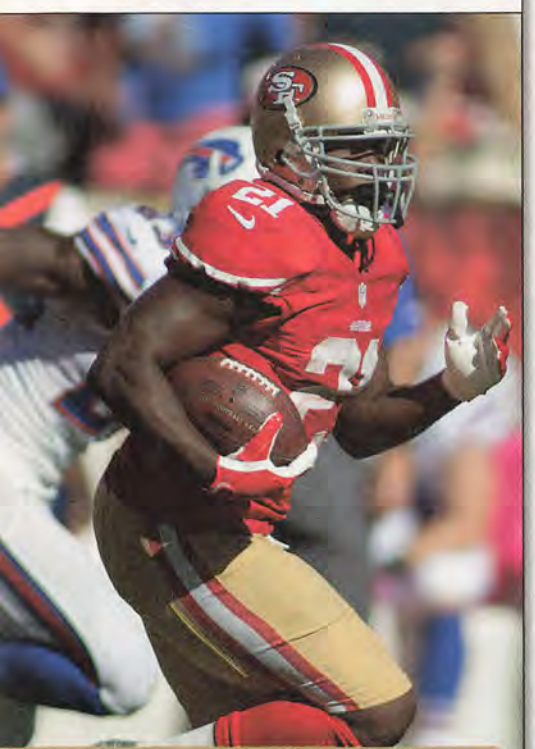
THE ORGANIZATION

CO-CHAIRMAN: Denise DeBartolo York
CO-CHAIRMAN: John York
CEO/OWNER: Jed York
GENERAL MANAGER: Trent Baalke
STADIUM: Candlestick Park (69,732)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.49ers.com
TICKETS: 415-GO-49ERS
TRAINING CAMP: San Francisco 49ers complex (Santa Clara, Calif.)

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Jim Harbaugh
RECORD WITH TEAM: 24-7-1
CAREER RECORD: 24-7-1
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Greg Roman
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Vic Fangio

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



FRANK GORE, RB

OFFENSE Two years ago, the 49ers ran an ultra-conservative, just-don't-screw-things-up offense that was overshadowed by one of the NFL's most dominant defenses. And now? With the dual-threat Kaepernick under center from Day 1, the 49ers' offense will demand as much if not more attention than their shutdown defense.

Kaepernick made his first NFL start in Week 11 last season against the Chicago Bears, filling in for Alex Smith, who suffered a concussion the week before against St. Louis. Kaepernick passed for 243 yards and two touchdowns in a 32–7 win on the Monday Night Football stage. That was enough to convince Harbaugh to make a dramatic QB switch. Kaepernick started every game the rest of the season, and Smith was traded to Kansas City in March.

Offensive coordinator Greg Roman did a masterful job retooling the 49ers' offense in midseason to fit his young QB's exceptional running ability and arm strength. Roman hit opposing defenses with a heavy dose of zone-read out of the Pistol formation, an offense Kaepernick ran in college at Nevada. Now Roman will have an entire offseason and training camp to refine his offense and devise new ways to take advantage of Kaepernick's strengths.

The 49ers boast one of the NFL's best offensive lines and most diverse running attacks, which became even more dangerous once Kaepernick joined running back Frank Gore in the starting backfield. The 49ers can still hammer away at opposing defenses with their power running game and creative blocking schemes. But now those defenses also have to prepare for Kaepernick and the zone-read. He rushed for 415 yards and five touchdowns on just 63 carries last year. Gore, meanwhile, showed no signs of slowing down. He rushed for 1,214 yards, giving him 8,839 for his career, an ongoing 49ers record. The 49ers return all five starting offensive linemen, including left tackle Joe Staley and left guard Mike Iupati, a pair of Pro Bowl picks last year. This group should only get better.

Wide receiver Michael Crabtree had a breakout year, catching 85 passes for 1,105 yards and nine touchdowns, all career highs. And this season Kaepernick will have another dangerous target in ex-Raven wide receiver Anquan Boldin, a three-time Pro Bowl pick acquired in an offseason trade. Add explosive tight end Vernon Davis to the mix, and the 49ers have a three-headed receiving monster. All that's missing is a big-time downfield threat.

DEFENSE The 49ers return nine of 11 starters from a dominant defense that ranked third overall and fourth against both the run and pass. Five of those returning starters are coming off Pro Bowl seasons: outside linebacker Aldon Smith, inside linebackers Patrick Willis and NaVorro Bowman, strong safety Donte Whitner and defensive lineman Justin Smith.

In other words, the 49ers are stacked again, despite losing free safety Dashon Goldson to Tampa Bay, nose tackle Isaac Sopoaga to Philadelphia and backup defensive lineman Ricky Jean Francois to Indianapolis as free agents. Rookie Eric Reid, a first-round pick from LSU, is ticketed to replace Goldson, probably sooner than later. If Reid needs more time to adjust to the NFL, the 49ers have a solid option at free safety in free agent pickup Craig Dahl, who started all 16 games for the Rams last season, making 78 tackles and intercepting one pass. He's played 70 games with 42 starts over five NFL seasons. The 49ers quickly found a solid replacement for Sopoaga, signing former Kansas City Chief Glenn Dorsey as a free agent.

The strength of San Francisco's defense will again be against the run, with Justin Smith,

Kaepernick: Ezra Shaw/Getty Images; Gore, Fan: Peter Brouillet

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Record run Frank Gore owned most of the 49ers career rushing records before the 2012 season began, but he added a huge one to his list on Dec. 30 in the regular-season finale against Arizona at Candlestick Park when he scored on a 2-yard run. That gave Gore a team-record 51 rushing touchdowns, one more than Roger Craig and the late Joe Perry. Gore is the 49ers' all-time leading rusher with 8,839 yards on 1,911 carries, another team mark. He rushed for a 49ers single-season record 1,695 yards in 2006 and a single-game record 212 yards against Seattle on Nov. 19, 2006. "When you mention my name with the guys in the past like Jerry Rice, Steve Young, Joe Montana, it's a blessing," Gore says.

Working for a living Quarterback Colin Kaepernick took just over a week off after the 49ers' loss to Baltimore in the Super Bowl before getting back to work at CES Performance, a training facility in Atlanta. Kaepernick trained at the facility in 2011 before being drafted by the 49ers, and he joined a group of around 50 draft prospects and a dozen NFL veterans this year. Kaepernick, who takes a blue-collar approach to football, worked out with the offensive linemen. It wasn't all work and no play for Kaepernick during the offseason, though. He was a presenter at the 2013 American Country Music Awards in Las Vegas in April. Earlier in the offseason, he attended the annual Clive Davis Gala in Beverly Hills before the Grammy Awards and the Cartoon Network Hall of Game Awards.

Helping hand When wide receiver Anquan Boldin learned he had been traded by Baltimore to the 49ers, he was in Senegal, with a group touring impoverished villages with Oxfam International, an organization dedicated to creating "lasting solutions to the injustice of poverty" throughout the world. "It's important for us to help advocate for those that don't have a voice to make changes," Boldin says.

Family affair Tight end Vernon Davis will line up against his younger brother, Vontae, in an NFL game for the first time in Week 3 when the 49ers play the Indianapolis Colts at Candlestick Park. Vontae, a fifth-year cornerback out of Illinois, was drafted No. 25 overall in the first round by the Miami Dolphins in 2009. The 49ers used the sixth overall pick in 2006 to draft Vernon. Both brothers attended Dunbar High School in Washington, D.C.

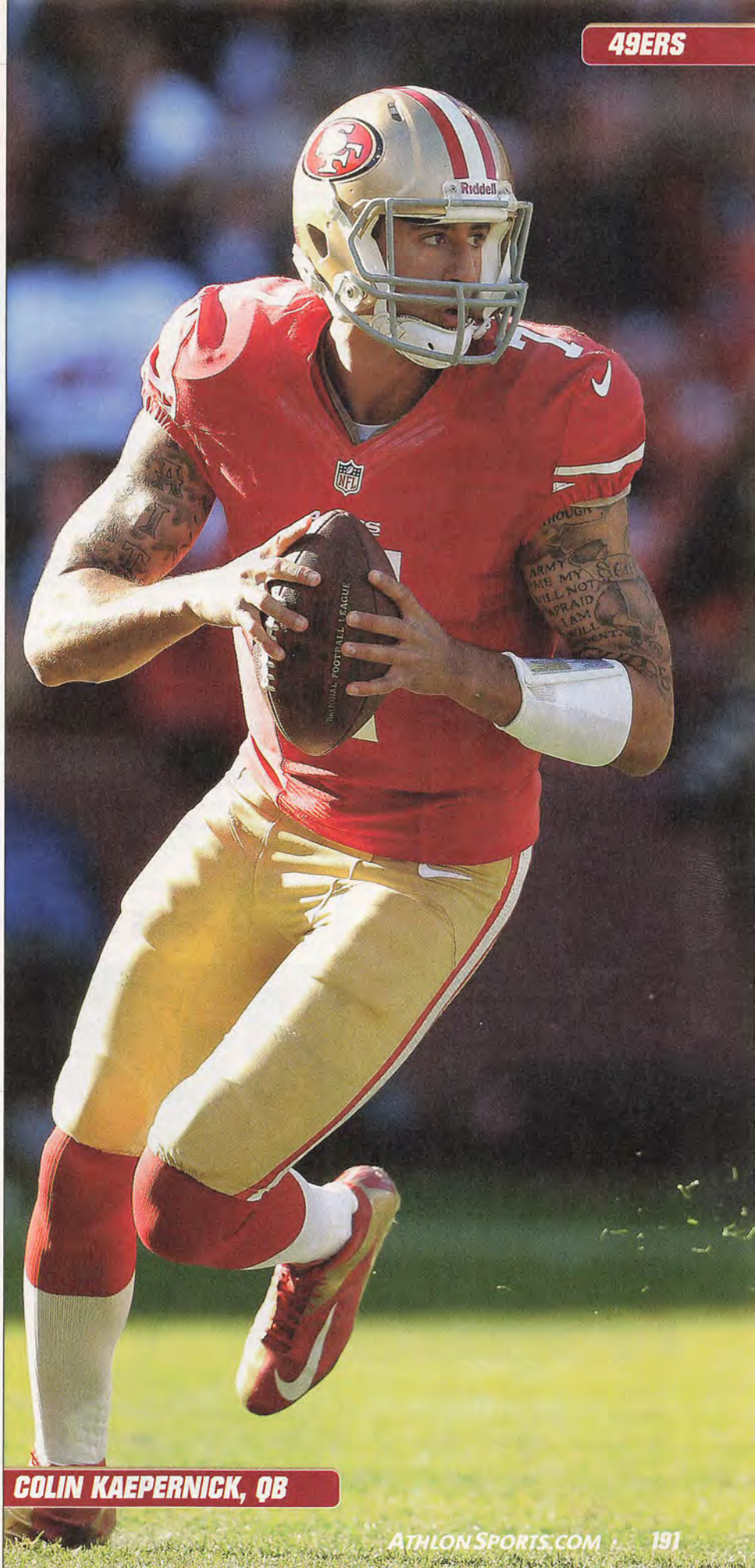
PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
CB	Nnamdi Asomugha	Philadelphia
WR	Anquan Boldin	Baltimore
S	Craig Dahl	St. Louis
K	Phil Dawson	Cleveland
DT	Glenn Dorsey	Kansas City
QB	Colt McCoy	Cleveland

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
K	David Akers	Detroit
DT	Ricky Jean Francois	Indianapolis
WR	Ted Ginn Jr.	Carolina
S	Dashon Goldson	Tampa Bay
WR	Randy Moss	Free agent
QB	Alex Smith	Kansas City
DT	Isaac Sopoaga	Philadelphia
TE	Delanie Walker	Tennessee



COLIN KAEPERNICK, QB

2012 RESULTS (11-4-1)

Sept. 9	at Green Bay	W	30–22
Sept. 16	Detroit	W	27–19
Sept. 23	at Minnesota	L	13–24
Sept. 30	at N.Y. Jets	W	34–0
Oct. 7	Buffalo	W	45–3
Oct. 14	N.Y. Giants	L	3–26
Oct. 18	Seattle	W	13–6
Oct. 29	at Arizona	W	24–3
Nov. 11	St. Louis (ot)	T	24–24
Nov. 19	Chicago	W	32–7
Nov. 25	at New Orleans	W	31–21
Dec. 2	at St. Louis (ot)	L	13–16
Dec. 9	Miami	W	27–13
Dec. 16	at New England	W	41–34
Dec. 23	at Seattle	L	13–42
Dec. 30	Arizona	W	27–13
Postseason			
Jan. 12	Green Bay	W	45–31
Jan. 20	at Atlanta	W	28–24
Feb. 3	Baltimore	L	31–34

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Colin Kaepernick	218	136	1,814	10	3
Alex Smith	218	153	1,737	13	5

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Frank Gore	258	1,214	4.7	8
Colin Kaepernick	63	415	6.6	5
Kendall Hunter	72	371	5.2	2
Alex Smith	31	132	4.3	0

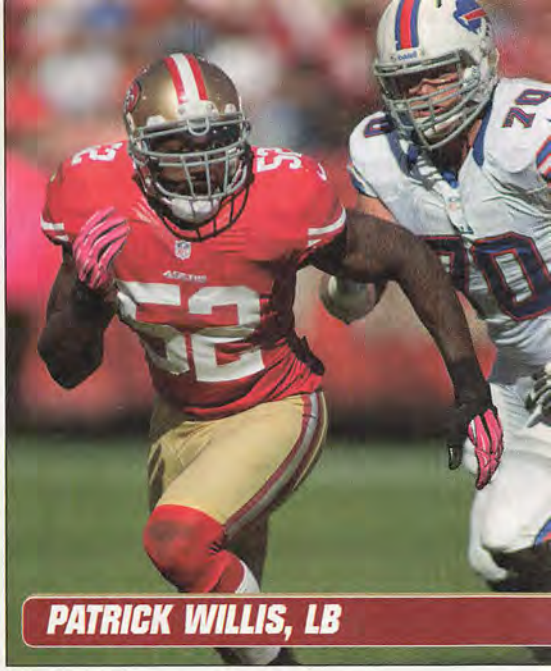
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Michael Crabtree	85	1,105	13.0	9
Mario Manningham	42	449	10.7	1
Vernon Davis	41	548	13.4	5
Randy Moss	28	434	15.5	3

KICKING: David Akers, 29-42 FGs, 44-44 XPs, 131 points
TACKLES: NaVorro Bowman, 148; Patrick Willis, 120
SACKS: Aldon Smith, 19.5; Ahmad Brooks, 6.5
INTERCEPTIONS: Dashon Goldson, 3; Tarell Brown, 2
FORCED FUMBLES: Aldon Smith, 3

2012 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	361.8	11	7
Rushing	155.7	4	4
Passing	206.1	23	12
Scoring	24.8	11	7
Third Down %	35.1	25	14
Punt Returns	10.5	10	3
Kick Returns	24.8	T11	T5

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	294.4	3	1
Rushing	94.2	4	2
Passing	200.2	4	1
Scoring	17.1	2	2
Interceptions	14	T16	11
Sacks	38.0	T11	T6
Turnover Differential	+9	T8	6



Willis, Bowman and Whitner leading the way. The 49ers' secondary showed some vulnerability during the postseason when opposing teams threw eight touchdown passes in just three games. San Francisco signed free agent Nnamdi Asomugha, a former Pro Bowl corner, who will try to resurrect his career after two rough years with the Eagles. The ex-Raider should challenge left corner Carlos Rogers for the starting job, but he could wind up in the nickel where his skill in man-to-man coverage is best suited.

In just his second NFL season and first as a starter, outside linebacker Aldon Smith had 19.5 sacks, second in the league behind J.J. Watt's 20.5. Smith will be counted on again to supply most of the pass-rush pressure, but strong-side linebacker Ahmad Brooks is coming off a 6.5-sack season and has shown a knack for getting to the quarterback on blitzes.

SPECIALISTS Kicker David Akers had a nightmare season, and the 49ers made no effort to re-sign him. They quickly signed free agent Phil Dawson, who is coming off his first Pro Bowl season at age 38. Considering how bad Akers was last year, Dawson should be a decided upgrade. Dawson made 29-of-31 attempts last year for the Cleveland Browns, including all seven tries from 50-plus yards. He's 14-of-15 from 50-plus over the past two seasons. Last year, Akers was 9-for-19 from 40-plus. Andy Lee, a four-time All-Pro pick, returns to handle the punting duties. Last year he averaged 48.1 yards per punt with a net of 43.2, tied for first in the NFL.

LaMichael James should provide a big-play threat as a kick returner. As a rookie last year, he averaged 29.8 yards on 14 returns. Punt returner Ted Ginn Jr. left as a free agent. Kyle Williams, who underwent ACL surgery in December, will contend for the job.

FINAL ANALYSIS It's Super Bowl or bust. With their roster loaded with Pro Bowl players, the 49ers are all but a lock to make the playoffs, but they'll face a fierce battle from Seattle in the NFC West and might have to travel the tougher wild card route. If Kaepernick stays healthy, the 49ers could well wind up back in the Super Bowl with a chance to make history.

NFL DRAFT 2013 — 49ERS IN THE DRAFT

B

RD PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1. Eric Reid	S	6-1	213	LSU
2. Cornellius Carradine	DE	6-4	276	Florida State
2. Vance McDonald	TE	6-4	267	Rice
3. Corey Lemonier	LB	6-3	255	Auburn
4. Quinton Patton	WR	6-0	204	Louisiana Tech
4. Marcus Lattimore	RB	5-11	221	South Carolina
5. Quinton Dial	DE	6-5	318	Alabama
6. Nick Moody	LB	6-1	236	Florida State
7. B.J. Daniels	QB	5-11	216	South Florida
7. Carter Bykowski	T	6-7	303	Iowa State
7. Marcus Cooper	CB	6-2	192	Rutgers

The 49ers wasted no time finding a long-term replacement for Pro Bowl free safety Dashon Goldson. They traded up 13 spots in the first round to draft Eric Reid, an aggressive, hard-hitting safety. Then with their second pick in the second round, they landed Vance McDonald, a replacement for backup tight end Delanie Walker. Like Walker, McDonald is a tight end with wide receiver skills. With a wealth of draft picks and a deep, veteran lineup, the 49ers were able to gamble on a pair of high-potential players coming off major knee injuries — Cornellius Carradine and Marcus Lattimore. Neither one will be rushed into action.

Willis: Peter Brouillet; Reid: Chris Covatta

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
2 McCoy, Colt	QB	6-1	215	3	Texas	T-Cle-13	D3a-Cle-10
7 Kaepernick, Colin	QB	6-4	230	2	Nevada	D2-11	D2-SF-11
3 Tolzien, Scott	QB	6-3	208	2	Wisconsin	W-SD-11	FA-SD-11
RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
24 Dixon, Anthony	RB	6-1	233	3	Mississippi State	D6a-10	D6a-SF-10
21 Gore, Frank	RB	5-9	217	8	Miami	D3a-05	D3a-SF-05
33 Hampton, Jewel	RB	5-9	210	1	Southern Illinois	FA-12	FA-SF-12
32 Hunter, Kendall	RB	5-7	199	2	Oklahoma State	D4-11	D4-SF-11
23 James, LaMichael	RB	5-9	195	1	Oregon	D2-12	D2-SF-12
49 Miller, Bruce	FB	6-2	248	2	UCF	D7a-11	D7a-SF-11
RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
81 Boldin, Anquan	WR	6-1	220	10	Florida State	T-Bal-10	D2-Ari-03
88 Celek, Garrett	TE	6-5	252	1	Michigan State	FA-12	FA-SF-12
15 Crabtree, Michael	WR	6-1	214	4	Texas Tech	D1-09	D1-SF-09
85 Davis, Vernon	TE	6-3	250	7	Maryland	D1a-06	D1a-SF-06
14 Hall, Chad	WR	5-8	187	3	Air Force	FA-12	FA-Phi-10
17 Jenkins, A.J.	WR	6-0	192	1	Illinois	D1-12	D1-SF-12
18 Lockette, Ricardo	WR	6-2	211	1	Fort Valley State	FA-12	FA-Sea-11
82 Manningham, Mario	WR	6-0	185	5	Michigan	FA-NYG-12	D3-NYG-08
19 Moore, Marlon	WR	6-0	190	3	Fresno State	FA-Mia-13	FA-Mia-10
84 Morrah, Cameron	TE	6-3	251	4	California	FA-Sea-13	D7c-Sea-09
10 Williams, Kyle	WR	5-10	186	3	Arizona State	D6c-10	D6c-SF-10
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
75 Boone, Alex	G/T	6-8	300	3	Ohio State	FA-09	FA-SF-09
76 Davis, Anthony	T	6-5	323	3	Rutgers	D1a-10	D1a-SF-10
59 Goodwin, Jonathan	C	6-3	318	11	Michigan	FA-NO-11	D5-NYJ-02
77 Iupati, Mike	G	6-5	331	3	Idaho	D1b-10	D1b-SF-10
67 Kilgore, Daniel	G	6-3	308	2	Appalachian State	D5-11	D5-SF-11
66 Looney, Joe	G	6-3	309	1	Wake Forest	D4-12	D4-SF-12
65 Netter, Al	G	6-6	310	1	Northwestern	FA-12	FA-SF-12
68 Snyder, Adam	G/C	6-6	325	8	Oregon	FA-SF-12	D3b-SF-05
74 Staley, Joe	T	6-5	315	6	Central Michigan	D1b-07	D1b-SF-07
69 Wiggins, Kenny	T	6-6	314	1	Fresno State	FA-12	FA-SF-11
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
92 Divens, Lamar	DT	6-3	343	4	Tennessee State	FA-12	FA-SD-08
83 Dobbs, Demarcus	DE	6-2	275	3	Georgia	FA-11	FA-SF-11
90 Dorsey, Glenn	DT	6-1	297	5	LSU	FA-KC-13	D1a-KC-08
63 Jerod-Eddie, Tony	DT	6-5	301	1	Texas A&M	FA-12	FA-SF-12
91 McDonald, Ray	DE	6-3	290	6	Florida	D3b-07	D3b-SF-07
94 Smith, Justin	DE	6-4	285	12	Missouri	FA-Cin-08	D1-Cin-01
48 Tukuafu, Will	DE	6-4	293	2	Oregon	FA-10	FA-Sea-10
93 Williams, Ian	DT	6-1	305	2	Notre Dame	FA-11	FA-SF-11
LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
53 Bowman, NaVorro	LB	6-0	242	3	Penn State	D3-10	D3-SF-10
55 Brooks, Ahmad	LB	6-3	259	7	Virginia	W-Cin-08	FA-Cin-08
58 Fleming, Darius	LB	6-2	255	1	Notre Dame	D5-12	D5-SF-12
98 Haralson, Parys	LB	6-0	255	7	Tennessee	D5-06	D5-SF-06
50 Johnson, Cam	LB	6-3	268	1	Virginia	D7-12	D7-SF-12
51 Skuta, Dan	LB	6-2	250	4	Grand Valley State	FA-Cin-13	FA-Cin-09
99 Smith, Aldon	LB	6-4	258	2	Missouri	D1-11	D1-SF-11
45 Stupar, Nate	LB	6-2	240	1	Penn State	FA-12	D7-Oak-12
57 Wilhoite, Michael	LB	6-0	240	1	Washburn	FA-11	FA-SF-11
52 Willis, Patrick	LB	6-1	240	6	Ole Miss	D1a-07	D1a-SF-07
DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
Asomugha, Nnamdi	CB	6-2	210	10	California	FA-Phi-13	D1-Oak-03
26 Brock, Tramaine	CB	5-10	197	3	Belhaven	FA-10	FA-SF-10
25 Brown, Tarell	CB	5-10	193	6	Texas	D5-07	D5-SF-07
20 Cox, Perrish	CB	6-0	190	2	Oklahoma State	FA-12	D5-Den-10
29 Culliver, Chris	CB	6-0	199	2	South Carolina	D3-11	D3-SF-11
43 Dahl, Craig	S	6-1	212	5	North Dakota State	FA-StL-13	FA-NYG-07
28 McBath, Darcel	S	6-1	198	4	Texas Tech	FA-12	D2-Den-09
30 Robinson, Trenton	S	5-9	193	1	Michigan State	D6a-12	D6a-SF-12
22 Rogers, Carlos	CB	6-0	192	8	Auburn	FA-Was-11	D1-Was-05
27 Spillman, C.J.	S	6-0	199	4	Marshall	W-SD-10	FA-SD-09
36 Thomas, Michael	S	5-11	182	1	Stanford	FA-12	FA-SF-12
31 Whitner, Donte	S	5-10	208	7	Ohio State	FA-11	D1-Buf-06
SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
9 Dawson, Phil	K	5-11	200	14	Texas	FA-Cle-13	FA-Oak-98
86 Jennings, Brian	LS	6-5	242	13	Arizona State	D7b-00	D7b-SF-00
4 Lee, Andy	P	6-2	180	9	Pittsburgh	D6a-04	D6a-SF-04

Peter Brouillet

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	15	Michael Crabtree
	10	Kyle Williams
WR	81	Anquan Boldin
	82	Mario Manningham
LT	74	Joe Staley
	68	Adam Snyder
LG	77	Mike Iupati
	78	Joe Looney
C	59	Jonathan Goodwin
	67	Daniel Kilgore
RG	75	Alex Boone
	66	Joe Looney
RT	76	Anthony Davis
	68	Adam Snyder
TE	85	Vernon Davis
	89	Vance McDonald (R)
QB	7	Colin Kaepernick
	2	Colt McCoy
FB	49	Bruce Miller
	24	Anthony Dixon
RB	21	Frank Gore
	23	LaMichael James

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	91	Ray McDonald
	48	Will Tukuafu
DT	90	Glenn Dorsey
	93	Ian Williams
DE	94	Justin Smith
	83	Demarcus Dobbs
OLB	55	Ahmad Brooks
	96	Corey Lemonier (R)
ILB	52	Patrick Willis
	57	Michael Wilhoite
ILB	53	NaVorro Bowman
	51	Dan Skuta
OLB	99	Aldon Smith
	98	Parys Haralson
CB	22	Carlos Rogers
		Nnamdi Asomugha
CB	25	Tarell Brown
	29	Chris Culliver
SS	31	Donte Whitner
	27	C.J. Spillman
FS		Eric Reid (R)
	43	Craig Dahl

SPECIALISTS

K	9	Phil Dawson
P	4	Andy Lee

KR	23	LaMichael James
PR	10	Kyle Williams

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
LaMichael James, RB

DEEP-SLEEPER
A.J. Jenkins, WR

OVERVALUED
Anquan Boldin, WR

TOP ROOKIE
Eric Reid, S

BOUNCE-BACK
Vernon Davis, TE

TOP IDP
Patrick Willis, LB

For more Fantasy, visit **AthlonSports.com/fantasy** or follow **@AthlonSports** on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 8	Green Bay	4:25	11-5	359.4 (13)	336.8 (11)	27.1 (5)	21.0 (11)
2	Sept. 15	at Seattle	8:30	11-5	350.6 (17)	306.2 (4)	25.8 (9)	15.3 (1)
3	Sept. 22	Indianapolis	4:25	11-5	362.4 (10)	374.2 (26)	22.3 (18)	24.2 (21)
4	Sept. 26	at St. Louis (Thu.)	8:25	7-8-1	329.0 (23)	342.6 (14)	18.7 (25)	21.8 (14)
5	Oct. 6	Houston	8:30	12-4	372.1 (7)	323.2 (7)	26.0 (8)	20.7 (T9)
6	Oct. 13	Arizona	4:25	5-11	263.1 (32)	337.8 (12)	15.6 (31)	22.3 (17)
7	Oct. 20	at Tennessee	4:05	6-10	313.1 (26)	374.9 (27)	20.6 (23)	29.4 (32)
8	Oct. 27	Jacksonville (London)	1:00	2-14	299.2 (29)	380.5 (30)	15.9 (30)	27.8 (29)
9		BYE						
10	Nov. 10	Carolina	4:05	7-9	360.7 (12)	333.1 (10)	22.3 (18)	22.7 (18)
11	Nov. 17	at New Orleans	4:25	7-9	410.9 (2)	440.1 (32)	28.8 (3)	28.4 (31)
12	Nov. 25	at Washington (Mon.)	8:40	10-6	383.2 (5)	377.7 (28)	27.2 (4)	24.2 (22)
13	Dec. 1	St. Louis	4:05	7-8-1	329.0 (23)	342.6 (14)	18.7 (25)	21.8 (14)
14	Dec. 8	Seattle	4:25	11-5	350.6 (17)	306.2 (4)	25.8 (9)	15.3 (1)
15	Dec. 15	at Tampa Bay	1:00	7-9	363.8 (9)	379.9 (29)	24.3 (13)	24.6 (23)
16	Dec. 23	Atlanta (Mon.)	8:40	13-3	369.1 (8)	365.6 (24)	26.2 (7)	18.7 (5)
17	Dec. 29	at Arizona	4:25	5-11	263.1 (32)	337.8 (12)	15.6 (31)	22.3 (17)

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

NFC WEST FORECAST 2

See more cheerleaders by visiting AthlonSports.com/cheerleader

THE ORGANIZATION

CHAIRMAN: Paul Allen
PRESIDENT: Peter McLoughlin
EXECUTIVE VP/GM: John Schneider
STADIUM: CenturyLink Field (67,000)
SURFACE: FieldTurf
WEBSITE: www.seahawks.com
TICKETS: 888-NFL-HAWK
TRAINING CAMP: Virgina Mason Athletic Center (Renton, Wash.)

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Pete Carroll
RECORD WITH TEAM: 25-23
CAREER RECORD: 58-54
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Darrell Bevell
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Dan Quinn

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2008	4
2009	5
2010	7
2011	7
2012	11

Playoffs

MARSHAWN LYNCH, RB

Without being asked, Seahawks coach Pete Carroll informed beat writers on a conference call that then-rookie Russell Wilson would be his starting quarterback to open the 2012 season.

Dead silence.

Because of Wilson's 5'11" stature, plus his first-year status, no one had pressed Carroll about this possibility. No one realistically envisioned this happening. A year later, Wilson at the offensive controls makes perfect sense. The diminutive quarterback was the ignition point for an explosive zone-read offense, tied Peyton Manning's rookie record for touchdown passes (26), and was as responsible as anyone for the Seahawks getting into the playoffs and coming up with their first postseason road victory since 1983.

Wilson's presence has created so much momentum for the franchise — making it the preferred destination for high-impact free agent Cliff Avril and newly acquired (and well paid) Percy Harvin in the offseason — the Seahawks have people convinced that anything is possible this season.

OFFENSE All Seattle had to do was find a steady quarterback to get this team over the hump. Free agent signee Matt Flynn was supposed to be the guy. Wilson relegated him to three mop-up appearances, and Flynn now plays for Oakland. With his strong right arm, Fran Tarkenton-like scrambling ability (489 yards rushing) and high-level efficiency (a club-record 100.0 passer rating), Wilson created nonstop problems for opposing teams. His challenge will be to counter the defensive adjustments that will come his way a second time around the league.

Yet the Seahawks took a proactive step to ease the pressure on Wilson and further frustrate opposing defensive coordinators by acquiring the triple-threat Harvin. He was the one thing the Seattle offense sorely lacked — a legitimate breakaway threat. He upgrades the team's weakest offensive position area and allows the Seahawks to be more creative than ever. Opposing defenses might see Wilson in shotgun formation, flanked by physical running back Marshawn Lynch on one side and the elusive Harvin on the other. Harvin averaged 70 receptions in his four seasons in Minnesota. Rejuvenated wide receivers Sidney Rice and Golden Tate, who led the Seahawks with 50 and 45 receptions after battling chronic injury and inconsistency, respectively, will be relegated to lesser roles. Harvin's value to the Seahawks was clear: He was given the richest contract in franchise history, $67 million over six years.

The slashing and durable Lynch remains one of the NFL's most productive backs, regardless of who's at quarterback. He was better than ever when on the receiving end of Wilson handoffs, coming up with a career-high 1,590 yards rushing (third in the league). He relishes his role as a violent runner.

When Carroll took over the franchise, he made rebuilding a sorry offensive line his first order of business. It took a while, but the coach finally got the desired results. Left tackle Russell Okung and center Max Unger stayed healthy for the first time in the same season and became Pro Bowl starters. Big and mobile, Okung is the closest thing to a dominant Seahawks lineman since Walter Jones retired. Okung has the ability to get out and run and mow people down. That said, he still needs to address a lingering issue: He and right tackle Breno Giacomini were two of the most penalized offensive linemen in the league, flagged for 13 and 12 infractions, respectively, making them drive-killers at times. Unger is deceptively strong and quick. Left guard James Carpenter boasts star quality but has been injury-prone. Converted defender J.R. Sweezy finished his rookie season as a starter and is the top candidate at right guard. Paul McQuistan started all 16 games last season but could be the odd man out.

DEFENSE The back seven boasts as much speed and big-play ability as any in the league, but the line has been merely adequate. The lack of a pass rush was responsible for multiple fourth quarter defeats last season. Deeming this position a priority, the Seahawks added veteran tackle Tony McDaniel and ends Michael Bennett and Avril, the latter strong enough to bring added pressure and agile enough to play linebacker. They also drafted three more D-linemen. Avril (29 sacks over the past three seasons) is a ready replacement for Chris Clemons, whose timetable for a return from a playoff knee injury is unclear. Run-stuffing Red Bryant and speed-rusher Bruce Irvin are productive as situational ends.

The linebacking corps might have been the Seahawks' most questionable group entering last season. Bobby Wagner made it one of the most secure. Another ready-to-play rookie, Wagner was surprisingly savvy and speedy while stepping in from the outset and leading the team

Wilson: AP Photo/Damian Strohmeyer; Lynch, Cheer: Craig Mitchelldyer

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Kung Fu Okung Pro Bowl left tackle Russell Okung spent part of his offseason in Houston training in mixed martial arts, intent on using his new sport to boost his NFL career. "It really involves a lot of quick bursts and you're really maxing out your body in every effort, so I got into that," Okung said.

Frequent fliers Counting 2012 preseason, regular season and postseason trips, Seattle logged 35,234 air miles, over 6,500 more miles than the next-closest club, Oakland. Comparatively, a trip around the world is 25,000 miles.

Kid stuff As the 2012 regular season pulled to a close, the Seahawks boasted the second-youngest roster in the NFL, averaging 26 years and 24 days per player. Only St. Louis, at 25 years and 351 days per player, was younger.

Close calls In case it escaped notice, a Russell Wilson-led Seattle team was never out of any game during his first season, losing by four, six, seven, four, three and two points.

Home cooking Since 2002, the Seahawks have the NFC's second-best home record, 59–29, trailing only Green Bay, 62–26. Since 2003, all but one game at CenturyLink Field has been sold out.

Spring football Marshawn Lynch showed up at his alma mater Cal, snuck into the Spring Game and actually ran for a score. He went in untouched, literally, with new Bears coach Sonny Dykes joking that he would have fined his defense $25 million if it had tackled Lynch. "I didn't want to get a call from Pete (Carroll)," Dykes said.

Get reel Wilson spends so much time in the Seahawks film room, during the offseason as much as the regular season, that his teammates now refer to it as "Russell's office."

Attitude check Newly acquired wide receiver Percy Harvin didn't leave Minnesota on the greatest terms, but he passed Seattle's background check. Seahawks offensive coordinator Darrell Bevell coached Harvin for two seasons with the Vikings. "I never had one issue with him," Bevell says. "We had a good relationship, an open line of communication. We could always talk. There were no run-ins."

Stop signs The Seattle defense led the NFL in fewest points allowed (15.3 ppg), but there were noticeable weaknesses up front, necessitating the signing of three free agent defensive linemen and the drafting of three more. Defensive end Red Bryant's take: Problem solved. "This is probably the most talented defensive line I've been a part of," Bryant says.

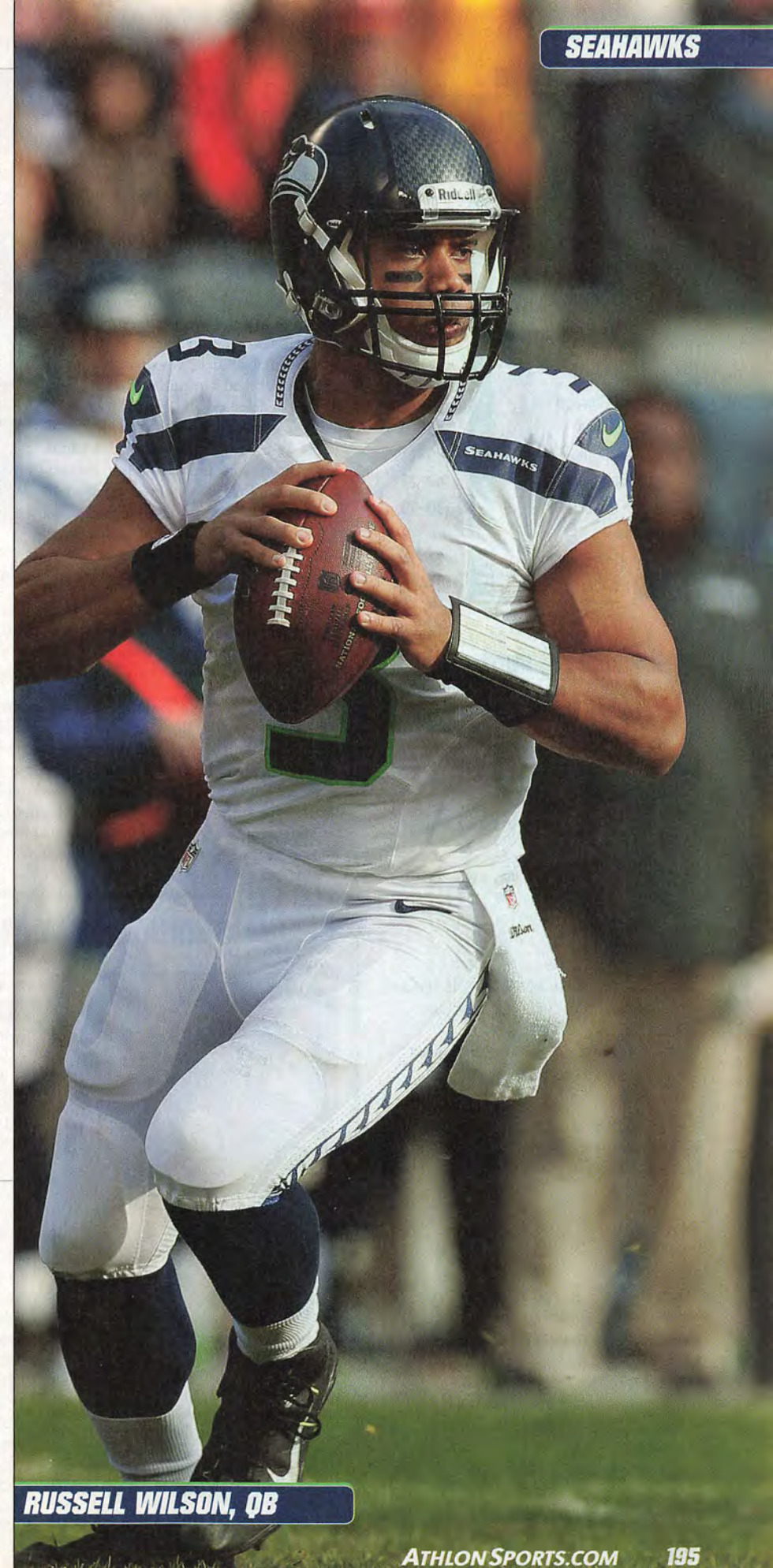
PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2012 TEAM
DE	Cliff Avril	Detroit
DE	Michael Bennett	Tampa Bay
WR	Percy Harvin	Minnesota
DT	Tony McDaniel	Miami
QB	Brady Quinn	Kansas City
CB	Antoine Winfield	Minnesota

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2013 TEAM
DT	Alan Branch	Buffalo
QB	Matt Flynn	Oakland
DT	Jason Jones	Detroit
CB	Marcus Trufant	Jacksonville
RB/KR	Leon Washington	New England



RUSSELL WILSON, QB

2012 RESULTS (11–5)

Sept. 9	at Arizona	L	16–20
Sept. 16	Dallas	W	27–7
Sept. 24	Green Bay	W	14–12
Sept. 30	at St. Louis	L	13–19
Oct. 7	at Carolina	W	16–12
Oct. 14	New England	W	24–23
Oct. 18	at San Francisco	L	6–13
Oct. 28	at Detroit	L	24–28
Nov. 4	Minnesota	W	30–20
Nov. 11	N.Y. Jets	W	28–7
Nov. 25	at Miami	L	21–24
Dec. 2	at Chicago (ot)	W	23–17
Dec. 9	Arizona	W	58–0
Dec. 16	at Buffalo	W	50–17
Dec. 23	San Francisco	W	42–13
Dec. 30	St. Louis	W	20–13
Postseason			
Jan. 6	at Washington	W	24–14
Jan. 13	at Atlanta	L	28–30

2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Russell Wilson	393	252	3,118	26	10
Matt Flynn	9	5	68	0	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Marshawn Lynch	315	1,590	5.0	11
Russell Wilson	94	489	5.2	4
Robert Turbin	80	354	4.4	0
Leon Washington	23	83	3.6	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Sidney Rice	50	748	15.0	7
Golden Tate	45	688	15.3	7
Zach Miller	38	396	10.4	3
Doug Baldwin	29	366	12.6	3

KICKING: Steven Hauschka, 24-27 FGs, 46-48 XPs, 118 points
TACKLES: Bobby Wagner, 140; Kam Chancellor, 101
SACKS: Chris Clemons, 11.5; Bruce Irvin, 8
INTERCEPTIONS: Richard Sherman, 8; Earl Thomas, 3
FORCED FUMBLES: Three players tied with 3

2012 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	350.6	17	12
Rushing	161.2	3	3
Passing	189.4	27	13
Scoring	25.8	9	6
Third Down %	40.2	12	8
Punt Returns	8.5	23	10
Kick Returns	27.1	T2	1

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	306.2	4	2
Rushing	103.1	10	5
Passing	203.1	6	3
Scoring	15.3	1	1
Interceptions	18	T8	T6
Sacks	36.0	T18	8
Turnover Differential	+13	T5	T4

in tackles (140). K.J. Wright and Malcolm Smith, who moves up from a reserve role to new starter, man the outside spots, and few linebacking corps cover as much ground as these guys. There's a big falloff in talent, however, with the backups.

The secondary is easily Seattle's biggest stockpile of talent. They're game-changers in every sense, with three of the four starters scoring twice each on interceptions or blocked kicks in their brief careers. Three of them have been Pro Bowlers. Cornerback Richard Sherman, the only one in his backfield who hasn't gone to Hawaii yet, had a team-high eight picks, 24 passes defensed and plenty of swagger. He also returned a blocked field goal 90 yards for a score. Fellow corner Brandon Browner has nine interceptions in two seasons, two for scores. Free safety Earl Thomas is a productive center fielder and a two-time Pro Bowler, and strong safety Kam Chancellor is a ferocious hitter. Seattle also signed three-time Pro Bowl selection Antoine Winfield as its nickel back.

RICHARD SHERMAN, CB

SPECIALISTS Dependable placekicker Steven Hauschka and punter Jon Ryan are accuracy guys rather than boomers. Hauschka connected on 24-of-27 field goal attempts, with each of his misses coming from 50 yards or more. Ryan dropped 30 punts inside the 20-yard line. Harvin, with five career kickoff-return TDs, made Pro Bowler Leon Washington expendable.

FINAL ANALYSIS Wilson is one of 20 starters returning, and one of six Seahawks players who went to the Pro Bowl. Offensive firepower abounds. All the pieces are in place for the Seahawks to make a deep playoff run, if not a second Super Bowl appearance in eight seasons. Wilson and Wagner, the precocious team leaders on each side of the ball, need to avoid sophomore slumps. Newcomers Harvin and Avril need to play as well as advertised. There hasn't been this much hype surrounding a Seattle team entering a season since 1985, and that one couldn't handle it, finishing 8–8. Can these Seahawks measure up? Certainly the element of surprise with Wilson behind center is long gone. But don't rule out anything with this team.

NFL DRAFT 2013 SEAHAWKS IN THE DRAFT

C+

RD PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
2. Christine Michael	RB	5-10	220	Texas A&M
3. Jordan Hill	DT	6-1	303	Penn State
4. Chris Harper	WR	6-0	234	Kansas State
5. Jesse Williams	DT	6-3	325	Alabama
5. Tharold Simon	CB	6-2	202	LSU
5. Luke Willson	TE	6-5	252	Rice
6. Spencer Ware	RB	5-10	229	LSU
7. Ryan Seymour	G	6-4	301	Vanderbilt
7. Ty Powell	DE	6-2	248	Harding
7. Jared Smith	G	6-4	302	New Hampshire
7. Michael Bowie	T	6-4	332	Northeastern State

The Seahawks didn't need another running back, but they couldn't resist taking Christine Michael, drawn to his power running style. Determined to upgrade the defensive line, Seattle drafted three candidates. Defensive tackle Jordan Hill, a high-motor guy capable of creating inside space, has the best chance of cracking the rotation. The Seahawks took tight end Luke Willson for his blocking ability and wide receiver speed unique for a big man (4.51-second 40). They drafted wide receiver Chris Harper for his ability to go up and get the ball. They were willing to gamble on cornerback Tharold Simon, overlooking his pre-draft arrest because they were drawn to his size and attitude.

Sherman: Craig Mitchelldyer; Michael: Chris Covatta

2013 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
1 Johnson, Jerrod	QB	6-5	251	1	Texas A&M	FA-13	FA-Phi-11
2 Portis, Josh	QB	6-3	211	1	California (PA)	FA-11	FA-Sea-11
10 Quinn, Brady	QB	6-3	235	6	Notre Dame	FA-KC-13	D1-Cle-07
3 Wilson, Russell	QB	5-11	206	1	Wisconsin	D3-12	D3-Sea-12
RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
40 Coleman, Derrick	RB	6-0	233	1	UCLA	FA-12	FA-Min-12
24 Lynch, Marshawn	RB	5-11	215	6	California	T-Buf-10	D1-Buf-07
26 Robinson, Michael	FB	6-1	240	7	Penn State	FA-10	D4-SF-06
22 Turbin, Robert	RB	5-10	222	1	Utah State	D4a-12	D4a-Sea-12
RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
89 Baldwin, Doug	WR	5-10	189	2	Stanford	FA-11	FA-Sea-11
13 Bates, Phil	WR	6-1	220	1	Ohio	FA-12	FA-Sea-12
11 Harvin, Percy	WR	5-11	184	4	Florida	T-Min-13	D1-Min-09
48 Helfet, Cooper	TE	6-3	239	1	Duke	FA-12	FA-Sea-12
11 Kearse, Jermaine	WR	6-1	209	1	Washington	FA-12	FA-Sea-12
14 Martin, Charly	WR	6-1	212	3	West Texas A&M	FA-12	FA-SD-09
85 McCoy, Anthony	TE	6-5	259	3	USC	D6-10	D6-Sea-10
84 McGrath, Sean	TE	6-5	247	1	Henderson State	FA-12	FA-Sea-12
86 Miller, Zach	TE	6-5	255	6	Arizona State	FA-Oak-11	D2-Oak-07
18 Rice, Sidney	WR	6-4	202	6	South Carolina	FA-Min-11	D2-Min-07
16 Swain, Brett	WR	6-0	200	3	San Diego State	FA-13	D7-GB-08
81 Tate, Golden	WR	5-10	202	3	Notre Dame	D2-10	D2-Sea-10
19 Walters, Bryan	WR	6-0	190	2	Cornell	FA-12	FA-SD-10
83 Williams, Stephen	WR	6-5	208	2	Toledo	FA-13	FA-Ari-10
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
77 Carpenter, James	G	6-5	321	2	Alabama	D1-11	D1-Sea-11
68 Giacomini, Breno	T	6-7	318	5	Louisville	PS-GB-10	D5-GB-08
61 Jeanpierre, Lemuel	G/C	6-3	301	3	South Carolina	FA-10	FA-KC-10
63 Johnson, Rishaw	G	6-3	313	1	California (PA)	FA-12	FA-Sea-12
67 McQuistan, Paul	G/T	6-6	315	7	Weber State	FA-11	D3-Oak-06
74 Moffitt, John	G	6-4	319	2	Wisconsin	D3-11	D3-Sea-11
76 Okung, Russell	T	6-5	310	3	Oklahoma State	D1a-10	D1a-Sea-10
75 Person, Mike	T	6-4	299	2	Montana State	FA-12	D7-SF-11
64 Sweezy, J.R.	G	6-5	298	1	NC State	D7a-12	D7a-Sea-12
60 Unger, Max	C	6-5	305	4	Oregon	D2-09	D2-Sea-09
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
56 Avril, Cliff	DE	6-3	260	5	Purdue	FA-Det-13	D3c-Det-08
72 Bennett, Michael	DE	6-4	274	4	Texas A&M	FA-TB-13	FA-Sea-09
79 Bryant, Red	DE	6-4	323	5	Texas A&M	D4-08	D4-Sea-08
91 Clemons, Chris	DE	6-3	254	9	Georgia	T-Phi-10	FA-Was-03
94 Howard, Jaye	DT	6-3	301	1	Florida	D4b-12	D4b-Sea-12
51 Irvin, Bruce	DE	6-3	248	1	West Virginia	D1-12	D1-Sea-12
99 McDaniel, Tony	DT	6-7	305	7	Tennessee	FA-Mia-13	FA-Jac-06
69 McDonald, Clinton	DT	6-2	297	4	Memphis	T-Cin-11	D7-Cin-09
92 Mebane, Brandon	DT	6-1	311	6	California	D3-07	D3-Sea-07
98 Scruggs, Greg	DE	6-3	284	1	Louisville	D7b-12	D7b-Sea-12
LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
52 Bradford, Allen	LB	5-11	235	2	USC	FA-11	D6-TB-11
55 Farwell, Heath	LB	6-0	235	8	San Diego State	FA-11	FA-Min-05
43 Knox, Kyle	LB	6-1	220	1	Fresno State	FA-12	FA-Sea-12
57 Morgan, Mike	LB	6-3	226	2	USC	FA-11	FA-Sea-11
53 Smith, Malcolm	LB	6-0	226	2	USC	D7b-11	D7b-Sea-11
54 Wagner, Bobby	LB	6-0	241	1	Utah State	D2-12	D2-Sea-12
50 Wright, K.J.	LB	6-4	246	2	Mississippi State	D4a-11	D4a-Sea-11
DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
37 Blackmon, Will	CB	6-0	210	6	Boston College	FA-13	D4-GB-06
39 Browner, Brandon	CB	6-4	221	2	Oregon State	FA-11	FA-Den-05
31 Chancellor, Kam	SS	6-3	232	3	Virginia Tech	D5-10	D5-Sea-10
27 Guy, Winston	SS	6-1	218	1	Kentucky	D6b-12	D6b-Sea-12
32 Johnson, Jeron	SS	5-10	212	2	Boise State	FA-11	FA-Sea-11
20 Lane, Jeremy	CB	6-0	190	1	Northwestern State	D6a-12	D6a-Sea-12
42 Maragos, Chris	FS	5-10	200	3	Wisconsin	FA-11	FA-SF-10
41 Maxwell, Byron	CB	6-1	207	2	Clemson	D6-11	D6-Sea-11
36 Parker, Ron	CB	6-0	206	2	Newberry	FA-12	FA-Sea-11
35 Shead, DeShawn	CB	6-2	220	1	Portland State	FA-12	FA-Sea-12
25 Sherman, Richard	CB	6-3	195	2	Stanford	D5a-11	D5a-Sea-11
29 Thomas, Earl	FS	5-10	202	3	Texas	D1b-10	D1b-Sea-10
28 Thurmond, Walter	CB	5-11	190	3	Oregon	D4a-10	D4a-Sea-10
21 Winfield, Antoine	CB	5-9	180	15	Ohio State	FA-13	D1-Buf-99
SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
49 Gresham, Clint	LS	6-3	240	3	TCU	FA-10	FA-NO-10
4 Hauschka, Steven	K	6-4	210	5	NC State	W-Den-11	FA-Min-08
9 Ryan, Jon	P	6-0	217	7	Regina	FA-08	FA-GB-06

AP Photo/Scott Boehm

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	18	Sidney Rice
	89	Doug Baldwin
WR	11	Percy Harvin
	81	Golden Tate
LT	76	Russell Okung
	67	Paul McQuistan
LG	77	James Carpenter
	67	Paul McQuistan
C	60	Max Unger
	61	Lemuel Jeanpierre
RG	64	J.R. Sweezy
	74	John Moffitt
RT	68	Breno Giacomini
	75	Mike Person
TE	86	Zach Miller
	85	Anthony McCoy
QB	3	Russell Wilson
	10	Brady Quinn
FB	26	Michael Robinson
RB	24	Marshawn Lynch
	22	Robert Turbin

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	79	Red Bryant
	72	Michael Bennett
DT	92	Brandon Mebane
	69	Clinton McDonald
DT	99	Tony McDaniel
	97	Jordan Hill (R)
DE	56	Cliff Avril
	51	Bruce Irvin
OLB	53	Malcolm Smith
	57	Mike Morgan
MLB	54	Bobby Wagner
	55	Heath Farwell
OLB	50	K.J. Wright
	57	Mike Morgan
CB	25	Richard Sherman
	41	Byron Maxwell
CB	39	Brandon Browner
	21	Antoine Winfield
SS	31	Kam Chancellor
	32	Jeron Johnson
FS	29	Earl Thomas
	42	Chris Maragos

SPECIALISTS

K	4	Steven Hauschka
P	9	Jon Ryan

KR	11	Percy Harvin
PR	81	Golden Tate

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FLASH

SLEEPER
Robert Turbin, RB

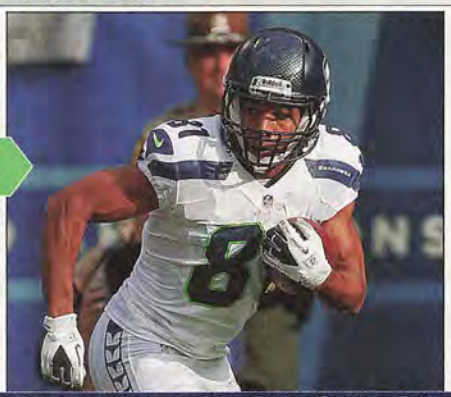
DEEP-SLEEPER
Anthony McCoy, TE

OVERVALUED
Golden Tate, WR

TOP ROOKIE
Christine Michael, RB

BOUNCE-BACK
Percy Harvin, WR

TOP IDP
Bobby Wagner, LB



For more Fantasy, visit **AthlonSports.com/fantasy** or follow **@AthlonSports** on Twitter

2013 SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Opponent	Time	2012 Record	2012 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 8	at Carolina	1:00	7-9	360.7 (12)	333.1 (10)	22.3 (T18)	22.7 (18)
2	Sept. 15	San Francisco	8:30	11-4-1	361.8 (11)	294.4 (3)	24.8 (11)	17.1 (2)
3	Sept. 22	Jacksonville	4:25	2-14	299.2 (29)	380.5 (30)	15.9 (30)	27.8 (29)
4	Sept. 29	at Houston	1:00	12-4	372.1 (7)	323.2 (7)	26.0 (8)	20.7 (9)
5	Oct. 6	at Indianapolis	1:00	11-5	362.4 (10)	374.2 (26)	22.3 (18)	24.2 (21)
6	Oct. 13	Tennessee	4:05	6-10	313.1 (26)	374.9 (27)	20.6 (23)	29.4 (32)
7	Oct. 17	at Arizona (Thu.)	8:25	5-11	263.1 (32)	337.8 (12)	15.6 (31)	22.3 (17)
8	Oct. 28	at St. Louis (Mon.)	8:40	7-8-1	329.0 (23)	342.6 (14)	18.7 (25)	21.8 (14)
9	Nov. 3	Tampa Bay	4:05	7-9	363.8 (9)	379.9 (29)	24.3 (13)	24.6 (23)
10	Nov. 10	at Atlanta	1:00	13-3	369.1 (8)	365.6 (24)	26.2 (7)	18.7 (5)
11	Nov. 17	Minnesota	4:25	10-6	336.6 (20)	350.0 (16)	23.7 (14)	21.8 (14)
12		BYE						
13	Dec. 2	New Orleans (Mon.)	8:40	7-9	410.9 (2)	440.1 (32)	28.8 (3)	28.4 (31)
14	Dec. 8	at San Francisco	4:25	11-4-1	361.8 (11)	294.4 (3)	24.8 (11)	17.1 (2)
15	Dec. 15	at N.Y. Giants	1:00	9-7	355.4 (14)	383.4 (31)	26.8 (6)	21.5 (12)
16	Dec. 22	Arizona	4:05	5-11	263.1 (32)	337.8 (12)	15.6 (31)	22.3 (17)
17	Dec. 29	St. Louis	4:25	7-8-1	329.0 (23)	342.6 (14)	18.7 (25)	21.8 (14)

2012 NFL STATISTICS

NFL OFFENSE

	PPG	YPG	YPP	Pass YPG	Rush YPG	3rd%	FD/G	TOP
New England	34.8	427.9	5.7	291.4	136.5	48.7	27.8	30:56
Denver	30.1	397.9	5.8	283.4	114.5	45.1	23.8	31:16
New Orleans	28.8	410.9	6.2	312.3	98.6	44.0	22.0	28:59
Washington	27.2	383.2	6.2	213.9	169.3	35.8	21.3	31:12
Green Bay	27.1	359.4	5.5	253.1	106.4	42.3	21.3	30:26
N.Y. Giants	26.8	355.4	5.9	239.1	116.4	40.6	20.4	29:10
Atlanta	26.2	369.1	5.8	281.8	87.3	45.1	21.4	30:52
Houston	26.0	372.1	5.5	239.4	132.7	37.6	21.3	33:46
Seattle	25.8	350.6	5.8	189.4	161.2	40.2	19.4	31:50
Baltimore	24.9	352.5	5.4	233.7	118.8	36.9	19.6	28:40
San Francisco	24.8	361.8	6.0	206.1	155.7	35.1	20.1	31:46
Cincinnati	24.4	332.7	5.2	223.6	109.1	34.1	18.2	30:26
Tampa Bay	24.3	363.8	5.8	248.9	114.8	35.8	18.8	30:19
Minnesota	23.7	336.6	5.4	171.9	164.6	37.1	19.1	28:44
Dallas	23.5	374.6	5.7	295.6	79.1	43.9	21.1	31:01
Chicago	23.4	310.6	5.0	187.4	123.1	36.5	18.2	31:48
Detroit	23.2	408.8	5.6	307.9	100.8	42.5	23.9	32:05
Carolina	22.3	360.7	5.8	230.2	130.5	43.1	20.5	29:51
Indianapolis	22.3	362.4	5.2	258.0	104.4	42.8	22.5	30:46
San Diego	21.9	297.2	4.8	205.9	91.3	37.8	18.3	31:37
Buffalo	21.5	342.9	5.6	204.3	138.6	38.9	18.8	30:11
Pittsburgh	21.0	332.8	5.2	236.7	96.1	42.0	19.2	32:11
Tennessee	20.6	313.1	5.2	207.7	105.4	38.2	16.2	27:41
Cleveland	18.9	314.2	5.0	214.7	99.6	30.7	17.4	28:14
St. Louis	18.7	329.0	5.3	221.9	107.1	32.1	17.9	29:47
Oakland	18.1	344.0	5.3	255.3	88.8	35.0	18.8	29:30
Miami	18.0	311.5	5.1	198.9	112.6	37.7	18.0	28:60
N.Y. Jets	17.6	299.2	4.6	180.7	118.5	36.9	18.7	30:26
Philadelphia	17.5	354.1	5.3	236.9	117.1	37.4	20.8	29:44
Jacksonville	15.9	299.2	4.8	213.7	85.6	29.6	16.8	28:03
Arizona	15.6	263.1	4.1	187.8	75.3	25.2	15.4	29:19
Kansas City	13.2	319.2	5.0	169.6	149.7	33.0	17.9	30:20

NFL DEFENSE

	PPG	Total YPG	Pass YPG	Rush YPG	Int	FFum	DEF TD	Sack
Seattle	15.3	306.2	203.1	103.1	18	20	3	36
San Francisco	17.1	294.4	200.2	94.2	14	18	4	38
Chicago	17.3	315.6	213.9	101.7	24	29	9	41
Denver	18.1	290.8	199.6	91.1	16	20	6	52
Atlanta	18.7	365.6	242.4	123.2	20	15	2	29
Pittsburgh	19.6	275.8	185.2	90.6	10	15	1	37
Miami	19.8	356.8	248.4	108.4	10	19	0	42
Cincinnati	20.0	319.7	212.5	107.2	14	16	3	51
Houston	20.7	323.3	225.8	97.5	15	18	3	44
New England	20.7	373.3	271.4	101.9	20	32	6	37
Green Bay	21.0	336.8	218.3	118.5	18	8	2	47
Baltimore	21.5	350.9	228.1	122.8	13	14	2	37
N.Y. Giants	21.5	383.4	254.3	129.1	21	21	2	33
Minnesota	21.8	350.0	244.3	105.8	10	19	3	44
St. Louis	21.8	342.6	225.1	117.5	17	14	5	52
San Diego	21.9	326.4	230.1	96.4	14	20	7	38
Arizona	22.3	337.8	200.8	137.0	22	14	3	38
Carolina	22.7	333.1	223.0	110.1	11	18	4	39
Cleveland	23.0	363.8	245.2	118.6	17	16	2	38
N.Y. Jets	23.4	323.4	189.8	133.6	11	15	3	30
Indianapolis	24.2	374.3	236.8	137.5	12	6	4	32
Washington	24.3	377.7	281.9	95.8	21	12	6	32
Tampa Bay	24.6	379.9	297.4	82.5	18	13	3	27
Dallas	25.0	355.4	230.3	125.2	7	15	3	34
Kansas City	26.6	356.5	220.8	135.7	7	17	1	27
Buffalo	27.2	362.9	217.1	145.8	12	24	1	36
Detroit	27.3	341.1	223.1	118.1	11	13	0	34
Oakland	27.7	354.5	235.9	118.6	11	10	0	25
Jacksonville	27.8	380.5	239.5	141.0	12	12	0	20
Philadelphia	27.8	343.2	216.9	126.3	8	17	0	30
New Orleans	28.4	440.1	292.6	147.6	15	12	4	30
Tennessee	29.4	374.9	247.8	127.2	19	13	5	39

2012 NFL STANDINGS

AFC

East	W-L	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Road	Div
New England	12-4	.750	557	331	6-2	6-2	6-0
Miami	7-9	.438	288	317	5-3	2-6	2-4
N.Y. Jets	6-10	.375	281	375	3-5	3-5	2-4
Buffalo	6-10	.375	344	435	4-4	2-6	2-4
North	**W-L**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**	**Home**	**Road**	**Div**
Baltimore	10-6	.625	398	344	6-2	4-4	4-2
Cincinnati	10-6	.625	391	320	4-4	6-2	3-3
Pittsburgh	8-8	.500	336	314	5-3	3-5	3-3
Cleveland	5-11	.313	302	368	4-4	1-7	2-4
South	**W-L**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**	**Home**	**Road**	**Div**
Houston	12-4	.750	416	331	6-2	6-2	5-1
Indianapolis	11-5	.688	357	387	7-1	4-4	4-2
Tennessee	6-10	.375	330	471	4-4	2-6	1-5
Jacksonville	2-14	.125	255	444	1-7	1-7	2-4
West	**W-L**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**	**Home**	**Road**	**Div**
Denver	13-3	.813	481	289	7-1	6-2	6-0
San Diego	7-9	.438	350	350	3-5	4-4	4-2
Oakland	4-12	.250	290	443	3-5	1-7	2-4
Kansas City	2-14	.125	211	425	1-7	1-7	0-6

NFC

East	W-L	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Road	Div
Washington	10-6	.625	436	388	5-3	5-3	5-1
N.Y. Giants	9-7	.563	429	344	6-2	3-5	3-3
Dallas	8-8	.500	376	400	4-4	4-4	3-3
Philadelphia	4-12	.250	280	444	2-6	2-6	1-5
North	**W-L**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**	**Home**	**Road**	**Div**
Green Bay	11-5	.688	433	336	7-1	4-4	5-1
Minnesota	10-6	.625	379	348	7-1	3-5	4-2
Chicago	10-6	.625	375	277	5-3	5-3	3-3
Detroit	4-12	.250	372	437	2-6	2-6	0-6
South	**W-L**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**	**Home**	**Road**	**Div**
Atlanta	13-3	.813	419	299	7-1	6-2	3-3
Carolina	7-9	.438	357	363	3-5	4-4	3-3
New Orleans	7-9	.438	461	454	4-4	3-5	3-3
Tampa Bay	7-9	.438	389	394	3-5	4-4	3-3
West	**W-L**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**	**Home**	**Road**	**Div**
San Francisco	11-4-1	.719	397	273	6-1-1	5-3	3-2-1
Seattle	11-5	.688	412	245	8-0	3-5	3-3
St. Louis	7-8-1	.469	299	348	4-4	3-4-1	4-1-1
Arizona	5-11	.313	250	357	4-4	1-7	1-5

2012 POSTSEASON

AFC Wild Card Playoff Games
HOUSTON 19, Cincinnati 13
BALTIMORE 24, Indianapolis 9

NFC Wild Card Playoff Games
GREEN BAY 24, Minnesota 10
Seattle 24, WASHINGTON 14

AFC Divisional Playoff Games
Baltimore, 38, DENVER 35 (2OT)
NEW ENGLAND 41, Houston 28

NFC Divisional Playoff Games
SAN FRANCISCO 45, Green Bay 31
ATLANTA 30, Seattle 28

AFC Championship Game
Baltimore 28, NEW ENGLAND 13

NFC Championship Game
San Francisco 28, ATLANTA 24

Super Bowl XLV
Baltimore 34, San Francisco 31

Home teams in CAPS

NFL PASSING LEADERS

	Rating	Pct	Yds	YPG	YPA	TD	Int	Sack
Aaron Rodgers, GB	108.0	67.2	4,295	268.4	7.8	39	8	51
Peyton Manning, DEN	105.8	68.6	4,659	291.2	8.0	37	11	21
Alex Smith, SF	104.1	70.2	1,737	173.7	8.0	13	5	24
Robert Griffin III, WAS	102.4	65.6	3,200	213.3	8.1	20	5	30
Russell Wilson, SEA	100.0	64.1	3,118	194.9	7.9	26	10	33
Matt Ryan, ATL	99.1	68.6	4,719	294.9	7.7	32	14	28
Tom Brady, NE	98.7	63.0	4,827	301.7	7.6	34	8	27
Colin Kaepernick, SF	98.3	62.4	1,814	139.5	8.3	10	3	16
Ben Roethlisberger, PIT	97.0	63.3	3,265	251.2	7.3	26	8	30
Drew Brees, NO	96.3	63.0	5,177	323.6	7.7	43	19	26
Matt Schaub, HOU	90.7	64.3	4,008	250.5	7.4	22	12	27
Tony Romo, DAL	90.5	65.6	4,903	306.4	7.6	28	19	36
Philip Rivers, SD	88.6	64.1	3,606	225.4	6.8	26	15	49
Joe Flacco, BAL	87.7	59.7	3,817	238.6	7.2	22	10	35
Andy Dalton, CIN	87.4	62.3	3,669	229.3	7.0	27	16	46
Eli Manning, NYG	87.2	59.9	3,948	246.8	7.4	26	15	19
Cam Newton, CAR	86.2	57.7	3,869	241.8	8.0	19	12	36
Kevin Kolb, ARI	86.1	59.6	1,169	194.8	6.4	8	3	27
Carson Palmer, OAK	85.3	61.1	4,018	267.9	7.1	22	14	26
Ryan Fitzpatrick, BUF	83.3	60.6	3,400	212.5	6.7	24	16	30
Sam Bradford, STL	82.6	59.5	3,702	231.4	6.7	21	13	35
Josh Freeman, TB	81.6	54.8	4,065	254.1	7.3	27	17	26
Jay Cutler, CHI	81.3	58.8	3,033	202.2	7.0	19	14	38
Christian Ponder, MIN	81.2	62.1	2,935	183.4	6.1	18	12	32
Matt Hasselbeck, TEN	81.0	62.4	1,367	170.9	6.2	7	5	14
Matthew Stafford, DET	79.8	59.8	4,967	310.4	6.8	20	17	29
Nick Foles, PHI	79.1	60.8	1,699	242.7	6.4	6	5	20
Michael Vick, PHI	78.1	58.1	2,362	236.2	6.7	12	10	28
Blaine Gabbert, JAC	77.4	58.3	1,662	166.2	6.0	9	6	22
Andrew Luck, IND	76.5	54.1	4,374	273.4	7.0	23	18	41
Ryan Tannehill, MIA	76.1	58.3	3,294	205.9	6.8	12	13	35
Jake Locker, TEN	74.0	56.4	2,176	197.8	6.9	10	11	25

AARON RODGERS, GREEN BAY

J.J. WATT, HOUSTON

NFL SACK LEADERS

	Sack	YdsL
J.J. Watt, HOU	20.5	139
Aldon Smith, SF	19.5	145
Von Miller, DEN	18.5	130
Cameron Wake, MIA	15.0	92
Clay Matthews, GB	13.0	84
Geno Atkins, CIN	12.5	90
Charles Johnson, CAR	12.5	100
Jared Allen, MIN	12.0	63
Chris Clemons, SEA	11.5	87
Michael Johnson, CIN	11.5	71
Chris Long, STL	11.5	74
Julius Peppers, CHI	11.5	74
DeMarcus Ware, DAL	11.5	64
Elvis Dumervil, DEN	11.0	83
Greg Hardy, CAR	11.0	86
Anthony Spencer, DAL	11.0	83
Robert Quinn, STL	10.5	61
Mario Williams, BUF	10.5	51
John Abraham, ATL	10.0	75
Justin Houston, KC	10.0	69
Cliff Avril, DET	9.5	61
Shaun Phillips, SD	9.5	63
Michael Bennett, TB	9.0	57
Tamba Hali, KC	9.0	57
Paul Kruger, BAL	9.0	46
Daryl Washington, ARI	9.0	51
Everson Griffen, MIN	8.0	77
Bruce Irvin, SEA	8.0	60
Cameron Jordan, NO	8.0	54
Robert Mathis, IND	8.0	54
Rob Ninkovich, NE	8.0	51
Ndamukong Suh, DET	8.0	67

NFL RUSHING LEADERS

	Yds	Att	YPG	YPC
Adrian Peterson, MIN	2,097	348	131.1	6.0
Alfred Morris, WAS	1,613	335	100.8	4.8
Marshawn Lynch, SEA	1,590	315	99.4	5.0
Jamaal Charles, KC	1,509	285	94.3	5.3
Doug Martin, TB	1,454	319	90.9	4.6
Arian Foster, HOU	1,424	351	89.0	4.1
Stevan Ridley, NE	1,263	290	78.9	4.4
C.J. Spiller, BUF	1,244	207	77.8	6.0
Chris Johnson, TEN	1,243	276	77.7	4.5
Frank Gore, SF	1,214	258	75.9	4.7
Ray Rice, BAL	1,143	257	71.4	4.4
Matt Forte, CHI	1,094	248	72.9	4.4
BenJarvus Green-Ellis, CIN	1,094	278	72.9	3.9
Shonn Greene, NYJ	1,063	276	66.4	3.9
Steven Jackson, STL	1,042	257	65.1	4.1
Ahmad Bradshaw, NYG	1,015	221	72.5	4.6
Reggie Bush, MIA	986	227	61.6	4.3
Trent Richardson, CLE	950	267	63.3	3.6
LeSean McCoy, PHI	840	200	70.0	4.2
Robert Griffin III, WAS	815	120	54.3	6.8
Vick Ballard, IND	814	211	50.9	3.9
Michael Turner, ATL	800	222	50.0	3.6
Mikel Leshoure, DET	798	215	57.0	3.7
Cam Newton, CAR	741	127	46.3	5.8
DeAngelo Williams, CAR	737	173	46.1	4.3
Willis McGahee, DEN	731	167	73.1	4.4
Ryan Mathews, SD	707	184	58.9	3.8
Darren McFadden, OAK	707	216	58.9	3.3
DeMarco Murray, DAL	663	161	66.3	4.1
Jonathan Dwyer, PIT	623	156	47.9	4.0
Mark Ingram, NO	602	156	37.6	3.9
Bryce Brown, PHI	564	115	35.3	4.9
Bernard Pierce, BAL	532	108	33.3	4.9
Knowshon Moreno, DEN	525	138	65.6	3.8
Russell Wilson, SEA	489	94	30.6	5.2
Daryl Richardson, STL	475	98	29.7	4.8
Pierre Thomas, NO	473	105	31.5	4.5
Alex Green, GB	464	135	38.7	3.4
Fred Jackson, BUF	437	115	43.7	3.8
Bilal Powell, NYJ	437	110	31.2	4.0
Donald Brown, IND	417	108	41.7	3.9
Colin Kaepernick, SF	415	63	31.9	6.6
Joique Bell, DET	414	82	25.9	5.0
Maurice Jones-Drew, JAC	414	86	69.0	4.8
Michael Bush, CHI	411	114	31.6	3.6
Isaac Redman, PIT	410	110	29.3	3.7
Felix Jones, DAL	402	111	25.1	3.6
Andre Brown, NYG	385	73	38.5	5.3
Justin Forsett, HOU	374	63	23.4	5.9
Kendall Hunter, SF	371	72	33.7	5.2
Jacquizz Rodgers, ATL	362	94	22.6	3.9
David Wilson, NYG	358	71	22.4	5.0
LaRod Stephens-Howling, ARI	357	111	25.5	3.2
Robert Turbin, SEA	354	80	22.1	4.4
Jonathan Stewart, CAR	336	93	37.2	3.6
Michael Vick, PHI	332	62	33.2	5.4
Ronnie Hillman, DEN	330	85	23.6	3.9
Daniel Thomas, MIA	325	91	27.1	3.6

CALVIN JOHNSON, DETROIT

NFL INT LEADERS

	Int	Yds	TD
Tim Jennings, CHI	9	105	1
Stevie Brown, NYG	8	307	0
Richard Sherman, SEA	8	57	1
Patrick Peterson, ARI	7	64	0
Thomas DeCoud, ATL	6	42	0
Casey Hayward, GB	6	81	0
Jairus Byrd, BUF	5	81	0
London Fletcher, WAS	5	29	0
Devin McCourty, NE	5	53	0
Asante Samuel, ATL	5	110	1
Ronde Barber, TB	4	160	1
Darius Butler, IND	4	101	2
Derek Cox, JAC	4	18	0
Michael Griffin, TEN	4	59	0
DeAngelo Hall, WAS	4	62	0
Kareem Jackson, HOU	4	71	1
Rob Jackson WAS	4	19	1
Janoris Jenkins, STL	4	150	3
Reshad Jones, MIA	4	28	0
Jason McCourty, TEN	4	29	0
William Moore, ATL	4	51	0
Ed Reed, BAL	4	78	1
Kerry Rhodes, ARI	4	39	0
Bryan Scott, BUF	4	66	1
Corey Webster, NYG	4	45	0
Cary Williams, BAL	4	90	1
Tavon Wilson, NE	4	87	0
Major Wright, CHI	4	45	1

NFL RECEIVING LEADERS

	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Calvin Johnson, DET	122	1,964	16.1	53	5
Brandon Marshall, MIA	118	1,508	12.8	56	11
Wes Welker, NE	118	1,354	11.5	59	6
Andre Johnson, HOU	112	1,598	14.3	60	4
Jason Witten, DAL	110	1,039	9.4	36	3
Reggie Wayne, IND	106	1,355	12.8	33	5
A.J. Green, CIN	97	1,350	13.9	73	11
Demaryius Thomas, DEN	94	1,434	15.3	71	10
Tony Gonzalez, ATL	93	930	10.0	25	8
Roddy White, ATL	92	1,351	14.7	59	7
Dez Bryant, DAL	92	1,382	15.0	85	12
Victor Cruz, NYG	86	1,092	12.7	80	10
Michael Crabtree, SF	85	1,105	13.0	49	9
Jimmy Graham, NO	85	982	11.6	46	9
Eric Decker, DEN	85	1,064	12.5	55	13
Marques Colston, NO	83	1,154	13.9	60	10
Randall Cobb, GB	80	954	11.9	39	8
Stevie Johnson, BUF	79	1,046	13.2	63	6
Julio Jones, ATL	79	1,198	15.2	80	10
Brandon Myers, OAK	79	806	10.2	29	4
Darren Sproles, NO	75	667	8.9	44	7
Brian Hartline, MIA	74	1,083	14.6	80	1
Brandon Lloyd, NE	74	911	12.3	53	4
Steve Smith, CAR	73	1,174	16.1	66	4
Vincent Jackson, TB	72	1,384	19.2	95	8
Larry Fitzgerald, ARI	71	798	11.2	37	4
Heath Miller, PIT	71	816	11.5	43	8
Jeremy Maclin, PHI	69	857	12.4	70	7
Greg Olsen, CAR	69	843	12.2	47	5
Miles Austin, DAL	66	943	14.3	49	6
Antonio Brown, PIT	66	787	11.9	60	5
Anquan Boldin, BAL	65	921	14.2	43	4
Lance Moore, NO	65	1,041	16.0	51	6
Justin Blackmon, JAC	64	865	13.5	81	5
Jermaine Gresham, CIN	64	737	11.5	55	5
James Jones, GB	64	784	12.3	49	14
Andre Roberts, ARI	64	759	11.9	46	5
Mike Wallace, PIT	64	836	13.1	82	8
Kendall Wright, TEN	64	626	9.8	38	4
Danny Amendola, STL	63	666	10.6	56	3
Mike Williams, TB	63	996	15.8	65	9
Owen Daniels, HOU	62	716	11.5	39	6
Percy Harvin, MIN	62	677	10.9	45	3
Davone Bess, MIA	61	778	12.8	39	1
Jermichael Finley, GB	61	667	10.9	40	2
Dennis Pitta, BAL	61	669	11.0	61	7
Ray Rice, BAL	61	478	7.8	43	1
Donne Avery, IND	60	781	13.0	48	3
Dwayne Bowe, KC	59	801	13.6	47	3
Brandon Pettigrew, DET	59	567	9.6	24	3
Brent Celek, PHI	57	684	12.0	34	1

Rodgers: Brian Ebner; Watt, Johnson: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

THE BACK **PAGE**

Abstruse stuff that had never happened until 2012

by Bruce Herman

A TEAM

- Played its first three preseason games without scoring a touchdown (Jets).
- Won its first two games of a season by a single point (Eagles).
- Broke five TDs of 60 yards or longer in the same game (Titans).
- Allowed a punt return and kickoff return TD in the same game in back-to-back weeks (Lions).
- Passed and rushed for 300 yards in the same game (49ers).
- Trailed by at least 24 points and ended up winning by double digits (Broncos over Chargers).
- Gained at least 350 yards for a 17th straight regular-season game (Patriots).
- Allowed 400 yards in 10 consecutive games of a season (Saints).
- Scored twice in overtime (Texans).
- Won two overtime games in five days (Texans).
- Scored more than 100 points in a span of five days (Patriots).
- Faced rookie starters at both quarterback and running back in three consecutive weeks (Cowboys).
- Ended a losing streak of at least eight games by scoring a TD on the final snap of the fourth quarter (Eagles).
- Defeated another team at home more than 20 consecutive times (Packers over Lions).
- That won the previous Super Bowl lost a shutout by as many as 34 points (Giants to Falcons).
- Was defeated in a game in which it rushed for more than 350 yards (Chiefs).
- Improved by nine wins with a rookie quarterback starting (Colts).
- Was burned for 7,000 yards from scrimmage (Saints).
- Reeled off more than 420 first downs (Patriots).
- Fielded a 2,000-yard rookie passer (Robert Griffin III) and 1,000-yard rookie rusher (Alfred Morris) in the same season (Redskins).
- Scored as many as 14 points in the first quarter of a postseason game, then was shut out the rest of the way (Redskins).
- Won a playoff game that it trailed by at least seven points with 30 seconds or less remaining in regulation (Ravens).
- Erased a deficit of more than 13 points to win an NFC Championship contest (49ers).
- Advanced to an NFL title game despite losing four of its last five regular-season contests (Ravens).

A QUARTERBACK

- Totaled more than 15 rushing TDs in his first two seasons (Cam Newton).
- Fired a TD pass in 54 consecutive games (Drew Brees).
- **Passed and rushed for a TD of at least 75 yards in the same season (Robert Griffin III).**
- Amassed 250 aerial yards, 100 more on the ground and scored a TD each way in the same game (Newton).
- Produced 73 career games with three or more TD tosses (Peyton Manning).
- Won 10 division titles as a starter (Tom Brady).
- Threw for four TDs without being picked off in a game 14 times in a career (Brady).
- Threw for 443 yards but no TDs in a game (Matthew Stafford).
- Charted a TD pass in all 16 regular-season games in three straight campaigns (Brady).
- Found 10 different receivers in a postseason game (Aaron Rodgers).
- Started a playoff game without having attempted a pass in the regular season (Joe Webb).
- Lost a postseason game at home for the fifth time (Manning).
- Won a sixth postseason start on the road (Joe Flacco).

A ROOKIE

- Threw for 320 yards in an opening day victory (Robert Griffin III).
- Kicked a 60-yard field goal (Greg Zuerlein).
- Caught a pass of at least 50 yards in five consecutive games (Chris Givens).
- Was true on the first 15 field goal attempts of his career (Zuerlein).
- **Produced six 300-yard aerial games (Andrew Luck).**
- Logged back-to-back games with four TD passes (Griffin III).
- Threw two game-winning TD passes after the two-minute warning (Luck).
- Rushed for three TDs of 10 or more yards in the first half of a game (Russell Wilson).
- Returned four takeaways for touchdowns (Janoris Jenkins).
- Passed for more at least 385 yards in a postseason contest (Wilson).

Griffin: Athlon Sports
Luck: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

It takes 4 quarters to defeat your rival.

Fortunately, it only takes 15 minutes to see how much you could SAVE WITH GEICO.

Whether you're at the game or at home, there are 4 nail-biting quarters where you're hoping the offense and defense get it right. Fortunately, it only takes 15 minutes to get your insurance right with GEICO. So no matter how the game goes, you'll be the MVP of savings.

Get a free quote.

GEICO®
geico.com
1-800-947-AUTO (2886)
or call your local GEICO agent

AUTO • HOME • RENTERS • MOTORCYCLE • RV • BOAT • PWC

Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states or all GEICO companies. Motorcycle coverage is underwritten by GEICO Indemnity Company. Homeowners, renters, boat and PWC coverages are written through non-affiliated insurance companies and are secured through the GEICO Insurance Agency, Inc. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, D.C. 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. GEICO Gecko image © 1999-2012. © 2012 GEICO

NOTHING BEATS WRANGLER COMFORT

OTHER JEANS

{ V-PATTERN PINCHES }

VS

Wrangler

{ U-SHAPE PROVIDES MORE ROOM }

Available at Walmart